

Mayor & Council of Sharpsburg Meeting held at the Hagerstown Model Railroad Museum in Sharpsburg  
June 7, 2021 Meeting

Railroad Museum board members gave a demonstration and tour of the facilities and shared some of their progress of what they've accomplished and thanked all councilmembers and mayor for their continued support, especially with the new roof and paint. They presented to Russ a plaque for the council's support and generosity.

#### Meeting Minutes

In attendance: Russ Weaver, Jacob Martz, Ed Beeler, Robbie Waters, Tim Lung, Mia Parsons, John Hammond, Joe Kudla, Mike Arant, Carrie Estell, Crystal Pheulpin, Gina Brown, Jen Bruni, Perry Jamieson, Officer Tracey Peyton

- I. Call meeting to order at 6:08 pm; Ed Beeler started the meeting off with the pledge
- II. Meeting minutes from May 2021 to approve, Ed motioned to approve, Jacob seconded, all were in favor.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS** (two minutes per person)

**Gina Brown**-Wanted information on the chicken ordinance, Tim Lung explained that he used portions of Boonsboro's and Smithsburg's ordinances to create a Sharpsburg chicken ordinance. He went further to explain that the ordinance is still in the draft phase and is in the hands of the Planning Commission. Once there is a final draft, it will be published in the post office, on the town's website and on the town's Facebook page. Once it is published, there will be an opportunity for the public to express their opinions and make comments and there will be a public hearing. Gina expressed some concern over the enclosed area for the chickens and said she would share a few suggestions. She will email the town her ideas.

**Officer Tracey Peyton**-presented the month of June and August to compare and contrast the days and how the schedule is created on a rotating basis. Schedule was discussed as hours are more flexible than the days. A person from the council will be given the task to be a Public Safety liaison and meet with Officer Peyton in regards to the town's needs and discuss the types of issues that are prevalent. The number to call in complaints is 240-313-4345, this is a non-emergency line. Council agreed that Officer Peyton is most effective when visible.

**Mike Arant**-Town Crier is going well, averaging about 12 pages per edition, this may need to be reined in as the sizing is an issue when sending out electronically. There are 140 electronic subscribers. Russ thanked Mike on the Town Crier and its success along with noting the positive comments from citizens.

#### **Mayor's Report**

Congratulated Jacob and Ed on the great parade. He spoke about PIA-Public Information Act, suggesting that all council members utilize a separate email for town business.

Zoning-any issues about zoning all go through Tim. Council persons should not express public opinions on zoning issues.

Budget-no financials this month as we are going to create a new QuickBooks system at the helm of this creation is Dee Snyder, this will be more in tune with the town's purpose as the old system was developed by accountants. A meeting to discuss finances will happen this month. This meeting will discuss budget for the new fiscal year, operational monies and capital improvements. John suggested we meet more often than once a month; this idea was well reviewed, and the council will meet the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month.

#### **Zoning with Tim**

- Inquiries regarding possible uses for the Old Market Place at 104 Church Street, which is currently for sale. The Zoning Administrator cannot make final decisions on permitted uses beyond what is listed in the TR zoning district until detailed information is provided and a formal application is made for a zoning certificate or permit. Special exception uses which are not specifically listed in the TR district would require additional review prior to the Board of Zoning Appeals' review of a Special Exception request.
- The unpermitted access at the end of E. Antietam Street continues to be an issue. The next step may be to take legal action.

- Owner and operator for the S. Mechanic Street short term rental, Mr. Fitzgerald, has been cooperative with the filing of special exception paperwork.
- Russ mentioned that Jacob would not be able to serve in the capacity of council/vice mayor and also be on the Zoning Appeals Board. Russ asked for some ideas, Jacob mentioned Randy Short as a possible candidate. Gina Brown stepped up and offered to volunteer for one of the open positions. Russ nominated her, Robbie seconded the nomination and all were in favor.
- Lutheran Church has had no permits for new uses issued; there have been a few inquiries regarding potential uses. The property is zoned TR and is currently listed for lease by the new owners.
- Trash, junk, tall weeds and grass and generally unkept property has been an ongoing issue in the Town. There are quite a few properties that fall into this category. These matters are regulated in the Town's Code of Ordinances. A letter to all town property owners will be drafted to remind owners of the regulations and to keep up a pleasing aesthetic to the town.
- The property at 207 West Chapline was noted for tall grass and weeds in the yard. A certified letter and 10 days to correct was discussed.

### **Council comments**

- Ed Beeler-Historical Planning, town archives, communications, grants
  - Sharpsburgh Museum of History-Attendance since May 6 - 118 with people from ME, NC, WV, MD, VA, PA & TX.
  - Initial research shows that 15 veterans are buried in the Lutheran Cemetery
    - Joseph Chapline donated the ground for a church and cemetery. The cost would be one peppercorn yearly.
    - Recorded Buried - 494
    - Veterans Buried - 15, 12-CW, 2-RW & 1-MW
    - Oldest Recorded Buried - 1787, stone in German-Last Recorded Buried – 1948
      - Some of the noted buried: Doctors – 8, Founder's Children – 4, Priest of St. Paul's – 1, Colored Burial Grounds – 3, Owners & Founders of BeLinda Springs, Plus worker from C & O Canal, Antietam Iron Works.
      - Possible partners in restoring our cemetery:
        - Town People
        - Scouts
        - Veterans Groups
        - Various other Volunteer groups
- John Hammond-Building and Infrastructure-
  - Spoke of the deplorable conditions at Mt. View Cemetery. Carrie mentioned that the board of Mt. View will be meeting Monday, June 21<sup>st</sup> at town hall. There are records that need to be moved out of town hall that belong to the cemetery.
  - John discussed the solar lights for the parking lot, their placement and height. John motioned to purchase and have lights installed, the council discussed two instead of three as two would do the job of the wanted light for the mural and parking lot. John motioned for the lights to be purchased and installed, Jacob seconded and all were in favor.
  - The missing brick in the town hall/library building will be replaced. The brick may not match exactly, but should be replaced.
  - John suggested having a more set list of projects with said projects ordered by priority.
  - Water/sewer rebates to be decided at the next pre council meeting.
- Jacob Martz-Vice Mayor, communications, Memorial Day Parade, grants
  - Memorial Day ceremony and parade was a great success; the fly over was a big hit! There were a few hiccups with the line up on Gen. Lee, but the committee met to discuss strategies for improvement.

- Communications is going well; Facebook is getting lots of information to the citizens about what the council is doing for the town. Main focus is to let the community know that the council is working for them.
- Mia Parsons-Planning-(Streetscape), grants
  - Met with an arborist who recommended an assessment
  - The assessment would capture all species, their conditions, take into account utilities, and offer recommendations and maintenance. Think of a what we have and what we need. The assessment can happen after July and will run between 750 and 850 dollars. Mia motioned for the assessment to be done by Trees 101 LLC, Ed seconded the motion and all were in favor of the town getting the assessment.
  - Would like for a basic tree policy. As of now the trees along Main Street are the town's responsibility.
- Robbie Waters-parks, railroad station, town operations
  - Sea container is to be removed and out building will be researched. This building will have climate control and be in the place of the sea container. By the end of June the mulch will be done and the pavilion will be painted.
  - Thanks were voiced for CAWAT and Beth and Dwayne's role in transforming the park into something that town can be proud of. There is park funding and grants available, Carrie sent an email to Robbie, Mia and Russ.
- Joe Kudla-roads, signs, streets, walls
  - Trone visit went well, it was from 430-600 Wednesday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> and the National Cemetery Walls and water/sewer was discussed. There was much coverage via Facebook on his visit.
  - Spring Wall-quote was shared, specifics of damage. The ownership of this area is still uncertain. Joe and Russ have tried to contact Bill Hall to discuss wall issues and fix. There are areas of the wall that look to have been fixed. The foundation support needs to be redone and the hydraulic pressure need to be relieved.
  - Joe, Russ and John will look at the wall this evening and take a group look.
  - National Cemetery wall that was damaged by a car accident will be fixed, the capstone will be replaced, along with the grout and pointing. This should start some time this summer.
  - Taylor's was in town cleaning and will finish the sewer clean up.
  - Mick Carr is waiting on the laminate for the road signs.
  - Dawn B. from the Town Rider program would be nice to hear what this organization has to offer along with their engineering team. They can offer assistance with long term planning for the town. Carrie to set up a meeting for later this summer.
  - Bradford Pear tree off Mechanic Street was looked at, Potomac Edison came out and trimmed a few branches. Looks that it needs a canopy trim, this would fall to the property owner's responsibility.
  - Williamsport offered to loan us their street cleaning machine, however it is not running. Still working on that partnership. It would be good to street clean ALL streets a couple times each year.

Public Safety council representative will be Robbie Waters-he will meet with Officer Peyton to be the council's liaison.

CAWAT-Mark Smith Park Lease was presented and discussed, 99-year lease with the charge of \$1, any improvements will need council's approval, the CAWAT will maintain grass and clean up. All were in favor of said lease.

### **Old Business/ACTIONS**

Light in the municipal parking lot-will be done within the month.

High Street signs-will be done within the month

Park will be mulched and pavilion painted within the month.

Bricks on walkway around telephone poles to be replaced-Joe will take care of this.

West Antietam Street barrier

**New Business**

**How to repair the Spring Wall**-Councilmembers drove to the spring wall and shared opinions and collectively made suggestions.

Meeting adjourned at 8:28 pm