

Mayor & Council of Sharpsburg
Meeting Minutes-Approved

November 1, 2021, 6 pm

- I. Call meeting to order at 6:02 p.m., the pledge was led by councilmember Mia Parsons
- II. Meeting minutes from October 2021 to approve-Ed motioned, Robbie seconded and all were in favor.

Zoning with Tim (via speaker phone)

- Tim thanked the mayor and council for allowing him to report via phone and reiterated that if he was needed, he would be available for an in-person meeting.
- Zoning Ordinance text amendment for Domestic Poultry.

Public Hearing was held on August 2. Following the hearing, the amendment was discussed by the Council, was voted on and approved. Presented tonight is the formal Ordinance of Adoption to be signed by Mayor and Council, and the Town Clerk. Ordinance was signed.

- 110 S. Mechanic Street (Gideon Property LLC)– Short Term Rental BZA Case.

Public hearing by BZA held on Sept 30. Request was approved with certain conditions. Decision and findings of fact were written and signed by the BZA Chair. Applicant was notified of the approval and the condition that a Zoning Permit and the recorded parking easement be submitted within 90 days. Deadline will be Dec 30.

- 225 W. Antietam Street - Weed complaint-10-day notice of weed violation sent on Oct 25. Compliance required by Nov 4.
- 0 W. Antietam St. (Crampton) - Weed complaint

This property was notified of the violation in August and was mowed within the compliance period. Since then, the weeds have grown up again and is in non-compliance. August notice included a statement that any further violation would be corrected by the town without additional notification. The property has been mowed and the property owner will be billed.

- 121 E. main Street – Potential building code issues and weed complaint. Have received several complaints from Council member regarding this property. County building inspector was asked to inspect the property. Response from Tom Hoover is as follows:

I did a site visit to the address provided. The building appears uninhabited and there was no one present while I did my inspection. By walking on the street and the alleys beside the property I took the photos attached to this email. Although the property is run down there does not appear to be any structural failure or unsafe conditions of allow someone to enter it without lock and key or forcible entry. This includes the shed to the rear of the dwelling and the garage/storage building on the back corner of the property at the corner of the alleys. I'm not sure there is anything our office can do about. The property is in violation of the weed ordinance. 10-day notice of violation has been sent.

- 124 E. Main Street – Building Permit for roof replacement

Received a building permit application from Long fence and roof for a roof replacement. Application was forwarded to the county for review and is currently in processing. No zoning matters involved.

- Historic Preservation Tax Credit Program

Have received several inquiries regarding this program which is administered by the County. According to the brochure, in order for properties in the Town to be eligible for these credits, the Town would need to adopt some form of preservation zoning, design guidelines and appoint a Historic District Commission to review applications. Have reached out to the County Planning Department for additional information. May be an item that the Planning Commission should explore.

Mayor's Report -Russ Weaver

- Jacob Martz-Vice Mayor-Russ spoke that Jake will be taking some time off through the holidays. He will still work on the Memorial Day Parade, getting bids on the council's sound system, assisting with the bylaws for the Friends of the Lutheran Cemetery and is still the vice mayor.
- History of Sharpsburg Fire Company-there are some possible artifacts from the Lutheran Church that the town's museum will create an exhibit for the Sharpsburg Fire Department. The museum will tentatively plan for an exhibit in spring, 2022. Ed may reach out via Facebook to see if residents have any items they would like to share.
- POS updates
 - Funding has been approved and Mick Carr is gathering a few samples for Welcome to Sharpsburg signs. A banner could also be in the works with more information about the park. Property will be bought as soon as possible, hoping before Thanksgiving.
 - David Guiney's Park program, (Saturday, November 6th from 930-300) This will allow the public to have input on the experience that folks will have when they go to the park
- Audit/Budget + October Actuals
 - Audit is going well, almost all correspondence was delivered to SEK electronically. The audit was extended until the end of November.
 - Financials were discussed large portion of income was from grants, close to 100K
 - Budget wise we are on track, soon budget reports will be generated by QuickBooks

- Robbie motioned for the financials to be accepted and Mia seconded. All were in favor.
- Sustainable Community Application
 - Drafted application has been submitted; this is a good thing for our town. Being a sustainable community assists with funding from government agencies.
- Community Network
 - Even in a small town some residents are slipping through the cracks; we have one homeless person, an elderly man who needs rides and there is a need from Mika's backpack recipients from the local elementary schools during the holidays. Russ asked who would like to try to assist, Russ, along with Joe and Mike will be on the look out for any citizen who may need some assistance; a neighbors helping neighbors-an informal network. Carrie will reach out to the school to see what families, that live in town, that are in the Mika backpack program that would benefit some help for the holidays.

Council comments

- **Mia Parsons-Planning-(Streetscape), grants**
 - Looking into quotes from certified arborists
 - Balsam fir tree was purchased and waiting on flower bed, (annuals pulled and contraption for cut tree to be removed)
 - Railing quote is in the process
 - The planning commission is meeting to decide on banners, hangers and which type and where on the electric polls. Scope of pricing to be addressed as to how many and how far from town square.
- **Joe Kudla-streets, roads & culverts**
 - 1000.00 paid for unsafe tree that was the town's responsibility, Joe and Robbie agreed that it was a very good deal as it was a very large tree.
 - Bridge on top of Rt. 65-Taylor's flushed and much debris was cleaned out
 - Craig Paving is giving an estimate on the hole on Antietam St, looks like the hole goes underneath the road
 - Bank parking lot was fixed and the pothole fix looks good
 - Three lights have been fixed, more are needed, Potomac Edison
 - Near the ball park there's a sign that needs to be removed,
 - Many walnuts in the area causing street debris, possible to seek out Williamsport to assist with street cleaning, (their street cleaning machine was either fixed or the town bought a new one)
- **Ed Beeler-Historical Planning, town archives, communications, grants**
 - Monthly Attendance: 253, 95 of this was from the Reopening event
 - Donations: two different people gave artifacts that were found in Sharpsburg
 - We now have 12 volunteers and one intern with a possibility of another volunteer
 - Upcoming events include
 - Colonial Clothing & Century local recipes in the planning stage
 - December Miss Sharpsburg will be crowned to start her reign in 2022
 - March 26th will be a metal detecting program
- **Robbie Waters-parks, railroad station, town operations, town safety**
 - Robbie wants to head up the Fishing tournament at the pond this coming season, (late April/early May. Need to budget this program. There was a discussion of amount with inflation considered. 1K was agreed, program will include stocking the pond, food, prizes and promotion. Ed motioned the fishing tournament budget, Joe seconded and all were in favor.
 - Brush Pick up started today and will continue until finished, hoping about a week to 10 days depending on the weather. There is some metal sticking out of a dirt pile that needs to be addressed
 - Alley #7 was cleared of brush and
 - Some residents take advantage of the ordinance of lawn care; hoping Tim can write a letter that states you have a certain number of days before mowing, after if this continues to be an issue, the town will take care of the lawn and bill the resident for this. Most owners and residents comply with appropriate lawn care, there is a need to urge the non-compliant. Tim and Russ to codify a letter of warning to keep the lawn mowed and if not the town will take over mowing and bill resident/owner.
 - Officer Peyton's schedule was emailed out to all council members and Robbie read off the report:
 - patrol checks-park 6, ballfield 4, school 7, Antietam station 5
 - traffic enforcement-3hrs for 6 warnings, 7 citations, 3 parking complaints
 - 3 hrs. foot patrol
 - assisted county with 3 calls out of town for mental subject, landlord-tenant dispute, and disorderly subject.

- **John Hammond-Building and Infrastructure**
 - Lights for the parking lot were ordered
 - Larry & Sons is scheduled to come and give an estimate on the cleaning of the HVAC
 - Well drilling, it is almost impossible to get a company to call back. There was some discussion that the county was going to help as they were very supportive and enthusiastic for this project. Anyone that has drill companies that they would suggest, send the contact information directly to John. The wells would be commercial in scope and have a 6–8-inch casing.

Community Partners

- **Chris Vincent-advisory board**
- The committee met on Wednesday, October 13, 2021. Due to COVID-19 this meeting was conducted via Zoom. Superintendent Trail discussed the rehabilitation project of the Visitor’s Center. The temporary building opened and visitor services are being conducted there along with the bookstore, daily 9a-5p. All of the HAZMAT has been removed from the Visitor Center building and any demo work and system removal is almost completed. Outside, the sidewalks have been removed and the overhanging trellises were cut off. The exhibit fabrication contract has been awarded so work will begin on the exhibits. Project is still on schedule with a completion date of July 2022 and opening Sept. 16, 2022.
- Other Projects: HPTC continues to work on the preservation project at the Piper house with the roof replacement and some of the exterior work. There is some monument restoration is being conducted throughout the park.
- Trail Rehab Project is complete with the Cornfield, East Woods and West Woods trails connected and marked. The next step of the project will be to include trail head signs and guides. Next year the focus will be on the southern end of the field looking at the Burnside Bridge, Final Attack and Snavelly Ford area.
- The 159th Battle Anniversary was very successful and the Park is starting to look at work around the park and planning for next year – the 160th. Plan is for a multiday event with programs and speakers.
- The first scoping meeting of the Land Use Management Plan / Environmental Assessment is schedule for Oct. 21 virtually. This plan and EA will define the framework for the treatment of the battlefield landscape and describe specific guidelines and tasks aimed to maintain and enhance the park's historic character.
- The purpose of this Landscape Management Plan is to develop comprehensive, sustainable land use strategies that will preserve significant landscape elements and integrate natural and cultural resource values, including a framework to:
 - Sustainably manage agricultural uses and forests;
 - Protect critical view sheds from surrounding development;
 - Restore historic viewpoints, currently obstructed by overgrown vegetation;
 - Protect witness trees that were standing at the time of the Battle of Antietam;
 - Stabilize eroding shorelines and trails;
 - Advance watershed stewardship goals;
 - Increase resiliency to climate change impacts; and
 - Improve opportunities for park visitors to learn about the battle's events and significance.

More information about the plan can be found at: <https://parkplanning.nps.gov/projectHome.cfm?projectID=104934>

Public comments will be accepted by mail or the website until Nov 21.

- Events: The Memorial Illumination is being planning to be held this year.
- Mr. Vincent asked about the where the current exhibits (such as the Roulette family items) were and if it was possible to loan to Sharpsburg Museum. These items were on loan to the NPs from the family and have been returned.
- The next meeting is scheduled for Dec.8th, 2021.
- **Mike Arant-Town Crier**
 - Email distribute is up to 154 households
 - First edition in print proposal will be given to Russ
 - Any story ideas, please feel free to submit, Mike is willing to write up a story if bulleted ideas are submitted

Old Business/ACTIONS

Poultry Ordinance to approve-this was signed

Security cameras-two companies-Somerset and Dynamark-both gave us good ideas with the major differences of price due to internet service as opposed to video cameras. Robbie motioned for Dynamark’s bid, Ed seconded it and all were in favor of the less expense company without the need to have a monitoring system via the internet with such low crime in town.

Walls-Historical survey is almost completed with the walls being included.

Big Spring-the owner, Mr. Hull, suggests that there is a fenced to keep tourists/residents out and to only be accessed for cleaning and maintenance. This property will also be town owned.

Bowman Trust-discussion was held on a project that would be appropriate for this funding. Mia suggested the water fountain at town center, Robbie and John suggested improvements and handicapped accessibility to the town's pond. Carrie and Robbie will go to the pond and come up with a scope of improvements; Mia to get some ideas/estimates for water and seating near bank building.

New Business

Brown property-a map of the property was shown and discussed; ideally it would make for a nice continuation of the park and link to the town pond. At this time, council feels that it would be too big of a project and clean up and debris removal would be expensive.

Snow Removal Contract with B&B Auto-contract is up the end of the year; all were in favor of extending it for one year. Robbie motioned and Ed seconded, all were in favor. Joe helped with rewording the contract extension.

Holiday Decoration-Roostervane Gardens-town will have Roostervane Gardens decorate this year.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15, next meeting scheduled for Monday, December 6th