

Town of Sharpsburg



Town Crier

Volume 27

August 2018

Number 8

The minutes of the Council meeting are an overview of business conducted and are not the official minutes of the meeting. The official minutes will be available at the Clerk's office after they are approved by the Mayor and Council at next month's council meeting.

The meeting was called to order at 7 pm by Mayor Spielman. The minutes of the July meeting were approved as presented. There was no treasurer's report.

Public Comment: Meredith Poffenberger Moore shared that August 27th at Ferry Hill will be the next Merchant's Association meeting. The C&O Canal Trust will be there to discuss C&O Canal Towns.

Ms. Moore read an excerpt that she has written in regards to the Farmers Market and the future of the Farmers Market and asked if anyone had questions in regards to the Farmers Market. Mayor Spielman stated that the Farmer's Market issue is not with the Mayor and Council, it is with the Planning Commission and the Mayor and Council have nothing in it at this time.

Bernie Semler, candidate for States Attorney wanted to attend the meeting and say hello and introduce himself to those that were not at the meeting that he attended. He is involved in the Washington goes Purple initiative and is hoping that the town has been spoken to about this initiative. The Town has received brochures, but no one has come to a meeting to give any further details. Mr. Semler stated that he would get information to us and try to have someone from the County come down to a meeting.

Ray Leaman from East Antietam Street addressed the Council in regards to the rain last Friday. He stated that the water was running down the road like a river. He did send pictures to the Town Hall. The storm drains need cleaned out, as they are covered with mud and debris. This seems to be an ongoing problem, especially on East Antietam Street. Water is not going down the drains properly. Mr. Leaman is wondering if the drains can be moved or additional drains can be added to the street. Darryl suggested that we have an engineer come out and check out the street and the drain to see what else could possibly be done. Russ asked if you can tell if the drain pipe is plugged or if it is just too much water for it to handle it.

Sonya Chappelle of East Main Street was questioning if businesses can open in a residential area and how. Ms. Chappelle was told that businesses cannot be in residential areas, only commercial areas so she is wondering why there are businesses in residential areas. Russ stated that there were a number of properties that were grandfathered in after the zoning districts were made. Bed and Breakfasts are encouraged to open. There are also automotive services in residential areas that are considered a service in a residential area. There are two businesses, The Marketplace of Sharpsburg being one, which was given permission to open in a residential area. This was handled by the Board of Zoning Appeals.

Committee Reports

Parks and Railroad Station: The pond aerator was delivered and installed. Brandon has Ben's Drain Cleaning coming out this week to snake the drainage pipe that brings water to the pond. Mulch is needed at the playground, preferably a load. Brandon also talked to a company about the fence at the Mark A Smith Park. Horst fencing will be completing the work. The railroad station needs a roof, at a cost of at least \$40,000. We are hoping to have the grant writer look into this when she comes on board.

Building: Michael will be measuring the controls for the heating and air conditioning so that we can place a locked case over it to avoid it being changed.

Streets: The estimate for the potholes is around \$6,700 and Monty from Jeter Paving stated it would be the end of August when they could get to it. Jeter is also going to look at the alley by Mr. Jamieson's house to see about re-grading it and giving an estimate. We will also have them give an estimate on paving the alley behind West Chapline Street.

Planning and Zoning: Met Thursday and they are about 75% of the way through an ordinance about a Farmer's Market. Russ explained to the audience that the Planning Commission is working on an ordinance that controls a Farmers Market. Parking is still an issue. Russ stated to the people in attendance that are representing the "Sharpsburg Farmers Market" that it is insulting to his team to suggest edits and state that they do not know what they are talking about. Mr. Weaver stated that his team has been carefully selected and that they are working diligently on this matter and are taking it seriously, so he would suggest that the "Farmers Market Committee" refrain from sending any further info to the Planning Commission.

Battlefield Advisory Committee: The Battlefield Plan has a key focus on the Visitors center. It will be modified but not torn down, because it is now considered historical.

Public Safety: Weeds around Stop signs. Can Darryl go on someone else's property and take care of the issue? Russ suggested that he go ahead and take care of it, as it is a safety issue.

Town Archives and Historical Planning: Ed reported that the museum has received donations from Denise Troxell

Mayor's Report: Nothing to report

Old Business

Grant Writer: We are slated to get a grant writer from the State, however; she has still not been given the final approval or the number of hours that we would have her. We may look into Dennis and Sylvia Frye and possibly another outside source to work on grants until she is onboard.

Bulk Trash Pickup Date: October 3rd or October 10th if that one is unavailable with Apple Valley Waste
New Business

Trick-or-Treat: October 31st 6pm-8pm

Communication on Parade – The Town was disappointed that there was no communication between the Fire Department group that was putting the parade on through town and the Town. The gentleman that came to the meeting to ask permission to have the parade informed the Council that his group would take care of getting the information to the Town, residents, newspaper, etc. and it seems that none of the happened.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm. Due to the Labor Day holiday, the next meeting of the Mayor and Council will be held on Monday September 10th at 7 pm.

Town News

Workshop Meeting of the Mayor and Council

The workshop meeting of the Mayor and Council will be held Wednesday September 26th at 6:30 pm. Workshops are open to the public, but are not interactive meetings.

Town Office Closure

The Town Office will be closed Monday September 3, 2018 in observance of Labor Day.

Cooresponding with the Town Clerk

The Town Clerk is in the office Monday-Thursday between the hours of 8:30 am-2:00 pm. She can be reached during those hours via telephone at 301-432-4428 or via email at townofsharpsburg@comcast.net. If you telephone after hours, there is voice mail available, and your call will be returned the next business day. Please do not send private messages or emails to the Clerk's personal accounts.

Delay in Trash Pickup



Trash collection will be delayed by one day the week of September 2nd, due to the Labor Day holiday. Trash should be set out on Wednesday for Thursday morning collection.

Bulk Trash Collection



Bulk Trash Collection will be held on Wednesday October 3rd. Bulk items should be placed out beside your regular trash for collection. Only bulk items placed at the curb will be collected. Items that are on vehicles, trailers, etc. will not be collected.

Items NOT accepted: wet paint, tires of any kind, batteries from lawn mowers, vehicles, etc., appliances that contain Freon, Construction debris, televisions, computer monitors, large auto parts, junk vehicles, and farm equipment.

Trick or Treat



Trick-or-Treat will be held in the Town of Sharpsburg on Wednesday October 31st from 6 pm – 8 pm.

Parents are asked to accompany their children while trick or treating. If you wish to hand out treats (or tricks) to the children, please turn your porch light on.

Community News and Events

WASHINGTON GOES PURPLE



The Town of Sharpsburg, along with other municipalities in Washington County, will be participating in Washington Goes Purple, a substance abuse awareness program that will engage our community and

youth to stand against substance abuse. The Town will be placing purple ribbons to show our support of this program to prevent addiction.

Painkillers are synthetic heroin. It is time to have “the new conversation” with kids about prescription pain killers.

One way that you can help with this initiative is to talk to your children about drugs, both legal and illegal, place a purple ribbon on your home, or you can donate to the initiative at

www.washingtongoespurple.com.

Come All Who Are Thirsty

Come All Who Are Thirsty will be having their monthly meeting on Saturday September 1, 2018 at 9:30am at the Burnside Church of God, located at 3904 Mills Road. Breakfast is provided. Come All Who Are Thirsty is open to ALL veterans and their families. First responders and anyone who has an interest in supporting Veterans are also welcome to attend. For more information, visit their website at www.comeallwhoarethirsty.org or call 240-347-7590.

Sharpsburg Merchant's and Community Association

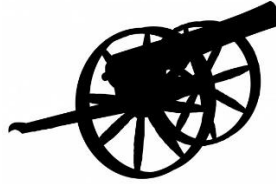
The Sharpsburg Merchant's and Community Association meet the last Monday of each month at 11:30am and again at 7:00pm. The September meeting will be held on September 24th at Ferry Hill. Contact Meredith Poffenberger Moore for more information 301-991-0265.

Rally Day at Tolson's Chapel



Join Tolson's Chapel September 15, from 10:30 am – 2:30 pm for music and stories and special guest Shana Oshiro with HALO, Inc., who will share an introduction to their women's barbershop quartet program, Race and #RealTalk. A traditional Rally Day luncheon fare – fried chicken, pie and ice cream – proceeds from luncheon sales go directly into the Friends of Tolson's Chapel operating budget. Other fundraising activities will include a 50/50 raffle and silent auction. The silent auction will begin online, on the Friends of Tolson's Chapel Facebook page beginning around September 1st, so be sure to check the page early and often!

Battlefield Advisory Committee



The Battlefield Advisory Committee welcomed two new members; Vernell Doyle and Michael Barnhart.

Superintendent Trail announced that the Park has purchased the East Woods property from the American Battlefield Trust (formerly known as the Civil War Trust) and this is now part of the park. They are working on funding for the acquisition of the Wilson Tract and the Poffenberger property across from the Visitor Center.

Georgene Charles has been named as a recipient of the George and Helen Hartzog Awards for Outstanding Volunteer Service for her leadership, organization and planning of the annual Memorial Illumination event for the last thirty years.

The McKinley walkway project is about half way completed. The project will include installing handrails along the route to make the walkway safer to and from the Burnside Bridge. The project is expected to be completed by early fall 2018.

The design for the rehabilitation of the Observation Tower has started. The design will be completed and ready for construction in the spring of 2019. The rehabilitation is for the staircase of the tower which is the original one constructed by the War Department in 1895.

Other projects that are being conducted at the park include: preservation work on the New York State Monument near the Visitor Center by the Historic Preservation Training Center; exterior work at the Newcomer House; and replacement of the historic 6-rail fence along the Hagerstown Pike.

The design for the rehabilitation of the Antietam Visitor's Center is underway. The Visitor Center will undergo a complete renovation starting in 2020. This will include expansion of the front breezeway, updating all mechanical and electrical systems, and the addition of an elevator to all three floors.

Superintendent Trail also discussed the Strategic Plan for the park which outlines their goals and work priorities over the next three to four years. Their three goals are:

- 1 – Preserve and protect the battlefield's fundamental and important resources and values.
- 2 – Provide a relevant visitor experience for all audiences.
- 3 – Develop a culture of operational excellence and continual improvement.

A detailed copy of the Strategic Plan is on file with the Town Clerk.

The next meeting is scheduled for October 3rd.

- Chris Vincent

Happenings at the Library

Join the Sharpsburg Library on September 11 from 6:30 pm – 7:30 pm for a sign unveiling for their American Civil War Collection. Light refreshments will be served.

Pumpkin Decorating Contest

September 27 – October 25

Get in the Halloween spirit by decorating an artificial pumpkin. Pick up your pumpkin any time after September 27 (While supplies last) and return it decorated by October 18. There will be age categories and prizes awarded. Let your imagination run wild! Winners will be determined by popular vote and announced October 25th.

Movie Night

September 12 – 6 pm

Won't You Be My Neighbor (Rated PG-13)

Special Events

September Mourn, The Dunker Church at Antietam National Battlefield

September 13 – 7 pm

Co-Author, Pastor and former park ranger at Antietam National Battlefield, Alann Schmidt, will discuss the importance of Dunker Church to Sharpsburg and its citizens, its role during the battle and its aftermath, and how it helped establish tourism and education for future generations of Americans

Theresa Kretzer of Sharpsburg

September 20 – 7 pm

Theresa Kretzer is known for keeping the family's Union flag hidden even when confronted by Confederate soldiers, but she was also a milliner and lifetime resident of Sharpsburg. We will talk about the many versions of the flag incident, and I believe we will have a few surprises. We will also discuss what the hats looked like that Theresa may have created. Sponsored by Sharpsburg Historical Society and the Sharpsburg Library

Town Government

Town Office – 301-432-4428

Hours of Operation: Monday-Thursday 8:30 am – 2:00 pm

Zoning Administrator hours: Tuesdays 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

Additional hours for the Clerk and Zoning Administrator are available by appointment

Mayor and Council

Hal Spielman – Mayor	301-432-6854
Russ Weaver – Vice Mayor (Planning & Zoning)	301-432-5907
Ed Beeler – Councilperson (Town Archives & Historical Planning)	301-800-6877
Darryl Benner – Councilperson (Public Safety)	301-992-2230
Michael Carr – Councilperson (Town Buildings)	301-991-6988
Brandon Smith – Councilperson (Parks & Railroad)	301-491- 4866
Tamara White – Councilperson (Streets)	301-432-7754
Kimberly Fulk – Town Clerk/Treasurer/ Tax Collector	301-432-4428

The Sharpsburg Town Crier

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