

Sharpsburg Town Crier

Memorial Day Edition



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Antietam Unit 236 Begins Poppy Campaign

Miss Taylin Rose Eichelberger, 10, daughter of Gerald and Kelly Eichelberger of Keedysville, presented Mayor Russ Weaver with a poppy at the May 3 town council meeting.



The presentation was planned to coincide with the upcoming Memorial Day holiday and officially opened the annual poppy campaign of Antietam Unit 236, Sharpsburg American Legion Auxiliary.

The millions of handmade red crepe paper poppies are distributed in exchange for donations to help disabled and hospitalized veterans.

Ms. Ava Gift, President, Antietam VFW Post 236

The Origins of Sharpsburg's Memorial Day Celebration

In 1867, the Antietam National Cemetery was established as the final resting place for Union dead. The following year, Major General John A. Logan, the head of an organization of Union veterans known as the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR), established Decoration Day. The day was set aside for the nation to remember those who were killed in service of our country and to decorate the graves of the war dead with flowers. Ever since 1868, this day of remembrance has been commemorated across the country.

In 1868, the people of Sharpsburg established their own Decoration Day (Memorial Day) tradition in which a procession would lead from the Masonic Hall at the square to the National Cemetery where

ceremonies in memory of the fallen were conducted. This tradition continues today in the form of ceremonies and the Memorial Day Parade. Over the years, especially after 1883, when the Shenandoah Valley Railway built a station in Sharpsburg, more and more veterans and families would then travel by rail to attend the memorial ceremonies. Norway maples were planted along both sides of the road to shade the veterans as they walked, and some of those trees still stand today. The Sharpsburg Memorial Day Parade is believed to be among the oldest celebrations of its kind in the country.



Many local veteran organizations attended the Sharpsburg Decoration Day ceremonies, such as the Hagerstown G.A.R. Reno Post No. 4. Unfortunately not many photographs of this event exist today, but on May 30, 1899 there was a photographer present for the parade. This photo captures members of the post at the town square as they march up Main Street to the cemetery. The gentleman with the sword behind the flag is Colonel Edward Mobley. Mobley was a Civil War veteran from Hagerstown. He served in the 7th Maryland Infantry and was the commander of the GAR Post. Special thank you to local historian and battlefield guide, Justin Mayhue for sharing this photo from his recent book on Col Mobley.

Mr. Chris Vincent, President, Sharpsburg Historical Society



Preparing the Next Generation of Sharpsburg Emergency Responders

Since 1943, the Sharpsburg Volunteer Fire Company (SVFC) has provided continuous service to our community, especially during emergencies. To ensure continuity, the SVFC is seeking new volunteers wanting to help others and improve the quality of life in Southern Washington County. This search includes residents wanting to help as responders or as support personnel, serving in a variety of roles ensuring resources are available to respond to emergencies. In February, the SVFC initiated a Cadet Responder program, introducing 13 to 18-year old volunteers to fire and rescue operations.



The current group of Cadets train 2 evenings a month with the same equipment and in the same conditions as regular responders but under the watchful eyes of mentors. They gain knowledge and skills in emergency service delivery while building character, confidence, strength, and pride. They learn to work as a team and learn more about our community. When Cadets reach age 16, they can take certified fire and rescue training through the University of Maryland and can respond to emergency calls. By training Cadets in-house, the SVFC hopes to prepare Cadets for many years of service in Sharpsburg as emergency responders. Already our expectations have been exceeded as Cadets' resolve, dedication, resourcefulness, determination, and skills rival other volunteers in the County, regardless of age. Their efforts provide promise for the future.

All training for our volunteers comes at no cost and the SVFC provides all necessary personal protective equipment (PPE). Cadets are supervised and their safety is paramount. They are challenged and active participation is required, as fire and rescue operations require extensive "hands-on" practice. The Cadets truly become part of the service delivery team and learn the fundamentals of saving lives, property, and the environment. As team members, most Cadets also participate in organizational fundraising, advanced training, and maintaining facilities and equipment to enhance their understanding of our operations. We have found the Cadets always eager to learn and focus on their assignments. These efforts are critical in making our organization stronger and better positioned to meet various challenges.

In the few short months since the Cadet program started, volunteers have received training in PPE and SCBA (Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus) usage, fire behavior, building construction, search and rescue, wildland firefighting, hose line operations, vehicle extrication, emergency communications, firefighter safety, and scene size-up. These subjects will be reinforced throughout the summer with the addition of new topics such as ladders, ropes and knots, ventilation, forcible entry, fire attack, rural water supply, salvage/overhaul, and coordinated operations.

Beyond the reward of helping others and giving back to the community, volunteers can garner Student Service Learning (SSL) hours for graduation, life insurance coverage, response stipends, income tax credits, retirement benefits, scholarships, awards, discounts, and free training. With the education and experience gained, volunteers can pursue emergency services as a career or just use these skills to protect our community. Washington County Technical High School also has a certified Fire and Rescue Program for High School Juniors and Seniors, which some of our Cadets will be entering.

Fire and rescue companies throughout the United States have experienced a downturn in volunteerism, negatively affecting operations and putting both the public and responders at risk. The

SVFC has become aggressive in seeking out new volunteers and ensuring current staff stay committed. We hope our Cadet program can continue to grow and we can pass on the Sharpsburg tradition of quality emergency service to a new generation.

The need for additional volunteers has intensified this year as Sharpsburg has become a regional response station, providing supplemental staffing and equipment to support volunteers throughout the southern part of the County. With this growth comes unique opportunities to learn new skills, gain experience, and have a greater impact on public safety.

If you or someone you know is interested in the Cadet program or volunteering in any capacity with the Sharpsburg Volunteer Fire Co., please contact us at sharpsburgvfc@gmail.com or message us on facebook at www.facebook.com/sharpsburgvfc1. Online applications and additional Cadet information can be found on our website at www.sharpsburgvfc.org. We are always eager to meet, show the public our operations, and find ways you can help. Together we can make our community a safer place to live, work and play.

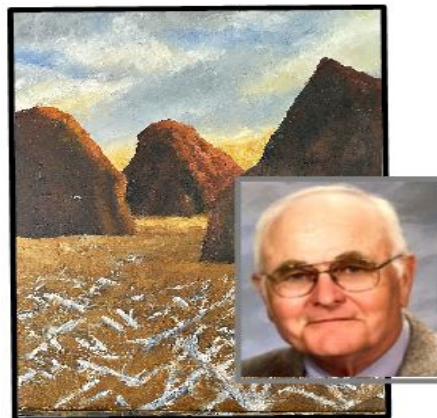
Mr. Jay Brandenburg; President - SVFC

Sharpsburg Museum of History: Summer Hours

Starting June 1 our hours of operations will be Monday thru Friday - 9 am- 4pm, and Saturday - 9am -5pm. These hours will run June 1 to October 1. Winter hours, October 1 thru May 30. will be Thursday thru Saturday, 9am - 4pm or other hours by appointment Call: 301-800-6877 or Loveshistory.1866@gmail.com.

Mr. Ed Beeler; Councilman

The Unfinished Painting



We remember Lee Weaver; husband, father, grandfather, artist, wit, and friend. This is the oil painting he was working on when it came time for him to leave us.

We're reminded that we are here for only a brief moment and we all leave behind an "unfinished painting".

Farewell, friend. - *Editor*

Kid's Corner

Erratum: *The Editor apologizes for forgetting an important part of Sharpsburg Elementary School's submission in April. Please see the missing part below.*

American Legion Antietam 236 Americanism Essay Contest

Our Third to Fifth Grade students wrote essays on the following topic: How can we address the health and well-being of our veterans, military and their families? The students listed below were selected for writing the strongest essays.

Third and Fourth Grade Level
First Place: Avery Larson
Second Place: Emily Franko
Third Place: Bellah Warner

Honorable Mention:
Christiana Bittner

Fifth and Sixth Grade Level
First Place: Victoria Chapman
Second Place: Fiona Jones
Third Place: Lila Reed

Honorable Mentions:
Hallie Demski
Drew Mason
Charlotte Merrbach
Evan Teal

The Seventeen-Year Locust: 2021



You might be listening to them right now as you read these lines.

We have many ways to witness the passage of time in our lives: the clock, the calendar, the New Year. In a long life you see a longer view of time unwinding, like the return of Comet Halley.

Our noisy cicada neighbors are just like that; their emergence is a tick of the biologic clock on our Home Planet that reminds us in a deep way that time passes. - *Editor*

Introducing the Antietam Institute

Until now, the public, students and scholars of the 1862 Maryland Campaign have not had a resource that focuses solely on education and the scholarship of that important moment in America's history. Interested in offering the public these kinds of educational opportunities, a group of dedicated students of the Maryland Campaign established the Antietam Institute earlier this year.



The Antietam Institute is the leading member-based, educational, and philanthropic 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, dedicated to the education and scholarship of the Maryland Campaign. The Institute seeks to educate the public on the central role of the 1862 Maryland Campaign and Battle of Antietam as a major turning point of the Civil War that directly resulted in the issuance of the preliminary Emancipation Proclamation.

Antietam Institute sponsored conferences, symposiums, publications, leadership forums, and other activities are designed to facilitate collaborative learning and knowledge exchange, creating unique opportunities for discovery and to inspire further historical research. The Institute is developing new educational opportunity programs and scholarships for students and teachers. Funding will allow the Institute to support and advance further historical research of the Campaign and provide a repository for the dissemination of historical information related to the 1862 Maryland Campaign.

Members will have the opportunity to participate in a variety of educational activities. The Institute's first Annual Fall Conference will be held on the

weekend of October 15 – 17, 2021 and features several presentations, three battlefield excursions, a panel discussion, and keynote address by a prominent authority on the battle and campaign. In addition, our first one-day Annual Spring Symposium will be held on April 23, 2022. It will showcase a variety of presentations and discussion about the campaign. Both events will be informative, interactive, and thought-provoking. Several other educational programs are being considered, such as leadership forums, and possibly in-service programs for teachers.

Another core activity of the Institute is the publication of materials that enhance knowledge and understanding of the Maryland Campaign. This includes the bi-annual publication of the Antietam Journal: Perspectives on the 1862 Maryland Campaign, featuring the latest research, interpretation, and stories of the Maryland Campaign, and a variety of other sections, such as book reviews, interesting/unusual areas of the battlefields, stories about relics, and interviews. The first edition of the Antietam Journal will hit the street just before the 159th anniversary of the 1862 Maryland Campaign.

The Institute will also serve as a publishing house for other research and scholarship. In 2021, the Institute will publish the The Brigades of Antietam, with a follow-up volume, The Artillery Units of Antietam coming in 2022.

The Antietam Institute will house a Historical Research Center (HRC), an online locus for collecting, preserving, and disseminating in digital form, historical information related to the 1862 Maryland Campaign. Institute members will have direct access to these unique source materials.

The Journal, other publications, and HRC will advance the scholarship of the Maryland Campaign by inspiring historical research, creating unique opportunities of discovery, and by facilitating collaborative learning and knowledge exchange.

In partnership with the George Tyler Moore Center

for the Study of the Civil War at Shepherd University, the Institute provides an academic internship for one of their outstanding undergraduate students. Working with the Institute's staff, the interns will gain invaluable experience in journal editing and formatting, the development and implementation of educational programs, interacting with the Antietam Institute's scholars and audiences, and researching a special topics project.

Each year the Institute will make donations to the battlefield parks, local preservation group and other historical organizations that support the Institute's goals. As a member-based organization, the new Antietam Institute needs the support of individuals interested in the 1862 Maryland Campaign. Membership levels begin as low as \$25 a year and rise to a lifetime membership of only \$1000. Each level has increasing levels of membership incentives.

The Antietam Institute is excited to offer new educational opportunities to the public, students and scholars who wish to learn and participate in the scholarship of the 1862 Maryland Campaign. If you are interested in joining or learning about the Institute, check out our website at antietaminstitute.org or email us at info@antietaminstitute.org.

Mr. Chris Vincent, President, Antietam Institute

Community Calendar

June 2021

Jim Smith – Civil War Lecture Series: “The most successful in its work”: Orlando Willcox’s division in the Maryland Campaign”

June 2 at 7PM

Jacob Rohrbach Inn

301-432-5079

Fridays at the Vineyard

June 4 at 3PM

Antietam Creek Vineyards

<https://antietamcreekvineyards.com/>

Summer Saturdays

June 5 at Noon

Antietam Creek Vineyards

<https://antietamcreekvineyards.com/>

Summer Sundays

June 6 at Noon

Antietam Creek Vineyards

<https://antietamcreekvineyards.com/>

Town Council Meeting

Town Hall

June 7 at 6PM

301-432-4428

Tom Clemens – Civil War Lecture Series: “Meet the Original Iron Brigade”

June 9 at 7PM

Jacob Rohrbach Inn

301-432-5079

Fridays at the Vineyard

June 11 at 3PM

Antietam Creek Vineyards

<https://antietamcreekvineyards.com/>

Summer Saturdays

June 12 at Noon

Antietam Creek Vineyards

<https://antietamcreekvineyards.com/>

Summer Sundays

June 13 at Noon

Antietam Creek Vineyards

<https://antietamcreekvineyards.com/>

Joseph Stahl – Civil War Lecture Series: “Faces of Union Soldiers at Harpers Ferry”

June 16 at 7PM

Jacob Rohrbach Inn

301-432-5079

Fridays at the Vineyard

June 18 at 3PM

Antietam Creek Vineyards

<https://antietamcreekvineyards.com/>

Summer Saturdays

June 19 at Noon

Antietam Creek Vineyards

<https://antietamcreekvineyards.com/>

Summer Sundays

June 20 at Noon

Antietam Creek Vineyards

<https://antietamcreekvineyards.com/>

Gary Rohrer – Civil War Lecture Series: “William B. Franklin and his impact on the 1862 MD Campaign.”

June 23 at 7PM

Jacob Rohrbach Inn

301-432-5079

Fridays at the Vineyard

June 25 at 3PM

Antietam Creek Vineyards

<https://antietamcreekvineyards.com/>

Summer Saturdays

June 26 at Noon

Antietam Creek Vineyards

<https://antietamcreekvineyards.com/>

Summer Sundays

June 27 at Noon

Antietam Creek Vineyards

<https://antietamcreekvineyards.com/>

July 2021

Town Council Meeting

Town Hall

July 12 at 6PM

301-432-4428

Mayor & Councilpersons

Russ Weaver – Mayor

Jacob Martz – Vice Mayor

Mia Parsons – Council

John Hammond – Council

Ed Beeler-Council

Robbie Waters – Council

Joe Kudla – Council

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Zoning Administrator-Tim Lung

Sharpsburg.md.zoning@gmail.com

**May 2021 Council Meeting Minutes
Attached**

msa ver1.2 05//31/2021

ATTACHMENT

Mayor & Council of Sharpsburg-Meeting Agenda
May 3, 2021 Meeting
Town Hall, 6 pm

DRAFTED

- I. Call meeting to order at 6:00 pledge of allegiance was led by Robbie
- II. In attendance: Russ Weaver, Jacob Martz, Mia Parsons, John Hammond, Ed Beeler, Jenn Bruni, Chris Vincent, Robbie Waters, Taylin Eichelberger, Darlene Eichelberger, Ava Gift, Perry Jamieson, Carrie Estell
- III. Ms. Poppy from the American Legion Women's Auxiliary-stuck a poppy in our mayor's lapel. This year, Taylin Eichelberger, is Miss Poppy. Poppies which represent the loss of our military were left for council.
- Ic. Meeting minutes from April 2021 to approve-Robbie motioned, Jacob seconded, all were in favor.
- c. Treasurer Report
 - a. Monthly-YTD budget-18K deficit, income tax, basic budget on track.
 - b. State of MD signed contract was missing to get the monies to collect money of the rail station repairs. Expenses compared to income. Highway user and street expenses are much higher than last year due to the snow plow and salting. Streets and alley are plowed. The snow removal with current company is contracted and other companies can bid.
 - c. Basics of expenses telephone, utilities, office supplies, miscellaneous, highway and street maintenance, brush pick up and trash.
 - d. Cemetery was titled into the town; the church took responsible for the mowing. Talking to the town's lawyer to see who is the official owner. Historical Society helped with the mowing of another cemetery and updated with repairs. Church members are part of the Methodist and Episcopal assisted with basic repairs however, church membership is low and congregations are older. Mia to take a look the condition of the stones to see if there are some issues; grounds to be surveyed would be a good idea. There are many piles of tombstones that are stacked. This will be an issue for mowing as it is now the responsibility of the town, until further investigation to its rightful owner.

PUBLIC COMMENTS (two minutes per person)-**Perry Jamieson**-thanked Carrie for including comments of the closed meeting from last month, he stated that it is refreshing to read/see what happened. It was a good way to communicate with the town. In the past, there was speculation that fueled gossip due to the number of closed meetings. Russ described the Sunshine law, (financial, bidding and legal-human resources issues that can allow for a closed council meeting), and assured that this will only be utilized when absolutely necessary.

Chris Vincent-Battle field advisory group-showcased the Antietam Institute with a presentation of the activities, work and function of the group. Their main focus is to educate public on Emancipation, a brochure, was shared among the councilmembers and public who attended. The objectives of the program were reviewed--well researched journals, yearly conference 3-day event along with a one-day events/symposium will take place at Shepherd's Spring. Next year a Leadership Forum on the corporate level will be implemented. There are varying membership levels...why? To give back to our communities and the battlefield, and most importantly to share knowledge!

Mayor's Report

- Spending plan, if a bid is 10K more, we need to see if it is an emergency. If it's under 10K does the council know people to try for a bid? Community and local partners/businesses would be able to bid and keep it local; mowing of the newly acquired cemetery will be bid on-
- Status on bookkeeping issues-will need a new accountant, but much progress has been made. Dee Snyder has helped tremendously with assisting Carrie with QuickBooks.

Tim Lung-Zoning-

- chicken ordinances, Smithsburg-removed special exception, up to 6 chickens on property, no roosters. Recommendation from planning commission. First reading, is tonight, John motioned, Joe seconded, all were in favor. Chicken ordinance will have to be updated, and approval and input given from the planning committee.
- East Chapline shed permit was given.
- Followed up a complaint of a grinder pump, correction notice will be done this Wednesday from the county. Inspection will be done, as far as any other issue, it will be a civil matter.
- New owners of the Piper House want to have some type of business, they have many ideas, (coffee shop, boutique, etc.), and have reached out to both Tim and Town Hall. The property is zoned town residential. They would like to do a coffee shop, which is not a special exception. The town may be inclined to hear when they get together a business plan and have concrete plans and ideas.
- 128 East Main Street for sale-residentially zoned-home occupation has been queried, she has landscape architect business and would be meeting clients. This would require a special exception as well.
- Old Market Place questions for possible commercial-marketed as commercial property. Zoned limited commercial special exceptions.
- Junk on East Chapline Street and other properties in town have been complained about numerous times.
- Legacy issues-unpermitted entrance on East Antietam Street, town attorney was involved, need to follow up for zoning permit
- Stale actions-illegal access to alley, asset and short-term rentals-hotel/motel tax to get income from is tough and to maintain use of property
- Tim asked the council of what you'd like me take-zoning is very specifically stated. Planning commission to take on this. Show what you are doing to that is similar to what is listed, this could be granted as long as they're very specific to what they are saying...219 East Main St.
- Tim spoke to the building inspector, there isn't property enforcement, Tim and Joe-to meet up soon.

Alley's trees, who is responsible? There are many dead trees who is responsible for this? Ultimately it is the property owner's responsibility and therefore they would have to pay for the cost of any tree issues.
106 West Chapline-Robbie to take pictures

Council comments

- Joe Kudla-streets, safety and culverts-signs will be replaced on Main Street, Mick Carr got back to Joe with street signs-stop sign, 5 reflective no parking, 7 reflecting and installation for Main Street. Old style signs. Robbie accepted the bid, Ed motioned and Jacob seconded the motion, all were in favor. MDOT-culverts to be cleaned, March 24th and 25th street sweep, signage will go up before.
- Mia Parsons-Planning-(Streetscape), grants-registered for the MD agricultural fund grant, not sure if we qualify, preliminary Shawn Walker-reschedule the walk to get ideas on species, two dogwoods have died-Robbie will be speak with someone at sunny Meadows, Planning committee cross alleys to be named, Air B&B-Tim will look into, Big Spring is deteriorating (ownership is in question-

William Hall is one of the properties), planning committee will take this on; there will need to

- Flower budget will be coming soon
- Upgrade curbs, cemetery fence-cemetery restoration could be part of the planning commission-MD historical-Vernell Doyle to assist.

- Robbie Waters-parks, railroad station, town operations-small park-mowing will be CAWAT responsibility, slide is still in need of repair and/or replacement. Mulching the park will need to happen soon. Russ suggested 15 yards. Ed motioned Jacob second, pavilion will be painted end of May.
- Ed Beeler-Historical Planning, town archives, communications-Mark A Smith park ribbon cutting, Thursday the museum will open. New hours will be posted. Gift bags are being assembled and will be ready to send out early June.
- John Hammond-Building and Infrastructure-cost of snow, trash, possibility of hiring an employee to do snow plow, trash, contracting out work. John and other council members are very disappointed with the sheriff/police, the hours and days that are assigned do not meet the needs of the town. We really need someone on Friday and Saturday evenings when traffic is a problem and issues arise; 10 pm-1 am on Friday and Saturday evenings would be ideal. The county pays for his salary and insurance that is associated with his duties. Russ suggests to get his criminal log and to see if the money that is allotted to sheriff can be given back if hours/days cannot be adjusted to meet our needs. John to table the motion and more information will be gathered and will vote on next meeting. Solar parking lights for the parking lot were presented. Water and sewer rates discussed briefly and a possibility to issue a rebate. Well water drilling-county drilling wells on our land, water from wells will go immediately into a water tower. Ball field will be the area for said water tower.
- Jacob Martz-Vice Mayor, communications, Memorial Day Parade-parade committee will meet tomorrow at 6 pm, 81 organizations, line up is complete, the book is being worked on, school parking lot is still in question, email to the board will be sent tomorrow. Town Crier is posted on Facebook and website. Boonsboro invited us to the parade. Budget-and transportation for dignitaries was asked, Podium purchase-a few options were presented to council. Four options were given, this would be ideal so the town wouldn't have to borrow a podium. The options of the models were discussed, Mia thought the model close to 800\$ would be a good choice, Russ agreed. Robbie motioned to purchase, Ed seconded and all were in agreement for the purchase of a podium for the town.

Russ mentioned that the sea container will be omitted soon and a small building to purchase for ease of accessibility.

Comments

Carrie Estell-Covid Testing will be Friday, May 7 from 10-2 across from Nutters in the Parking Lot, bulk trash will be Wednesday, May 12th with regular trash pick-up. There have been quite a few complaints concerning trash pick-up, the contract person is supposed to our contract and a flyer and reiterate trash "rules." John will provide a contract from Keedysville as they have with AVW which appears to be more lenient, this would be nice to compare. As of tonight, we have had a total of two rentals for the park pavilion. The library will be using the park's pavilion on a weekly basis starting in June for Thursday afternoon and monthly Wednesday. Council meetings to be out and about in town, (June-train station, Tolson's Chapel in the fall).

Old Business/ACTIONS-

Walls-title search of the properties-lawyers-right of way turnpike commission-title search-walls to help with

a right of way-for general public purpose-best hope that the federal government to help with
Water & Sewer-May 20thmeeting, a couple council members to assist with a presentation
Light in the municipal parking lot-solar light information to review
High Street signs/signs
Meet with Dave Trone-ownership and maintenance of stone walls
Bricks on walkway around telephone poles to be replaced
West Antietam Street barrier

New Business

American Recovery Plan-may give us money, help and paperwork are needed. Done # would need to have this, link to be sent to Mia about the specifics, appears at first look we may not qualify.

Lutheran Cemetery

- Bid from previous company 275/mowing 550 first mowing
 - RW Properties 450 bid clear alley and cemetery 250/mowing
 - Shepherdstown Lawn 1200 first mow and 800 per month for one mow/month

Ed motioned for RW Properties to have the mowing contract, Jacob seconded the motion, bid went to RW for mowing the newly acquired cemetery.

100\$ donation for the American Legion Women's Auxiliary, Joe motioned, Jacob second the motion all were in favor, a check will be put in the collection jar and will be a nice surprise for Ava who works very diligently for the memories of fallen military.

Three proposals for the walls to be repaired were shared and described by Joe-auto accident-fix about 10K-Travelers insurance property owner to take this on. Joe offered to be a liaison for the owners and will be part of the contact for the insurance company, Travelers. Robbie motioned for the bid to be accepted, Mia seconded the motion, all in favor for this wall project.

Second bid/proposal was for 23K to repair the Spring wall, waste coffering work behind and repaint, scope not included the permits, license fees and the EPA may be involved. At this time Russ and Joe will meet with the property owners to discuss the scope of the project as it will be vast. Bowman Trust and others who may be able to help support the spring repairs. Carrie knows the Bowmans and will reach out.

Wall option for the larger 160K to redo, this will be tabled as we need funding.

Brain and Joe and Russ this Thursday or Wednesday to discuss legal obligations of the title search...

Meeting adjourned at 8:40