

Town of Sharpsburg



Town Crier

Volume 26

May 2017

Number 5

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 the April council meeting.

The monthly meeting of the Sharpsburg Mayor and Council was called to order at 7:02pm by Mayor Hal Spielman.

The meeting began with the pinning of the poppy on the Mayor by the 2017 Miss Poppies, Mackenzie Angle and Brooke Angle. This pinning officially kicks off the poppy season. Poppies are never sold, but are given for a donation. The monies go towards Veteran projects.

The March minutes were approved as presented. The March and April treasurer's reports were both approved as presented.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Steve Williams of 227 West Main Street was questioning the tree/sidewalk issue that he is having and was questioning if and when it would be repaired and the tree removed. After much discussion, it was moved again to have the tree removed in front of his house and the bricks that have been disturbed by the tree roots repaired.

Jeff Prenger questioned all the litter that has been on the streets, caused by local businesses. We will have the zoning administrator address this issue with the businesses again.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Parks and Railroad Station: Brandon stated that a few repairs need completed, such as shingles on the roof. He stated that the Town is working on re-doing the park, adding smaller equipment for smaller children, getting the weeds sprayed and getting the mulch put down. He is working on getting pricing together and obtaining grants to get these projects completed. Kimberly stated that the mulch would be in within two weeks.

The pond will be getting cleaned up for the Fishing Rodeo on May 6th. Mayor Spielman stated that he had the inmates do some clean up and if it isn't enough, they will return on May 5th and could do more.

Building: Michael took pictures and measurements of the building for the Veteran Flags. He is concerned that the building would not be large enough to hold all the flags that he thinks are going to be purchased for display. We may need to search out other avenues, such as displaying in the grassy area, or perhaps looking into light poles to display them on. He also took measurements of the lettering on Town Hall, so that he can get this completed prior to Memorial Day. The town garage needs painted. This is something the inmates can do, but they cannot paint the roof.

Streets: Tamara looked at the two alleys, one behind Russ' house and the alley behind the Episcopal Church. She felt if she had to pick one of the two, she felt Russ' was in disrepair the most. However; there are some bridges that are in need of being evaluated and possibly repaired, so we will wait until those have been evaluated and a cost given to us prior to committing funds to repair the alley. Mayor Spielman has contacted that County Engineer to evaluate those for us. Darryl suggested that the engineer may want to evaluate the wall at Mr. Rowekamp's property to see what is needed to repair it. Some of the rocks are falling out of it and a piece of the end near Main Street has been broken off. Tamara has not observed any missing signs on the streets. Russ recommended that at some point while Tamara was walking the streets, to take an inventory of the signs; including older signs, old poles that may need to be replaced at some point. It was questioned on whether the East High Street sign was ever replaced, as we have a larger street sign for that street. Kimberly stated that the County does not make the smaller signs anymore and they usually give us the best deal cost-wise. Michael stated that he could match the current signs.

Planning and Zoning: The committee met on April 12th and had a good meeting. Chris Vincent, Vernell Doyle, Patty Hammond and Russ were present. They decided to focus on grants and branding. Russ' friend sent him an article from the Huffington Post, which discusses Nora Roberts, Antietam and Hagerstown; Washington County treasurers; but has no mention of Sharpsburg. The Planning members are questioning "what is Sharpsburg?" We do not feel that Sharpsburg is a gateway to the Battlefield, but branding needs to be figured out for Sharpsburg. The Planning and Zoning will also try to assist with a tree policy. May 11th is the next Planning meeting. Russ does not feel that the Planning Commission can help with the Town Codes, so he feels it is best to let that up to the Council.

Battlefield Advisory Committee: The next meeting is July 12th. Russ asked about the property right across from the Visitor's Center and the answer is that the Civil War Trust owns that property now. The OT Reilly monument is in question, since it is not battlefield property. Mr. Jamieson stated that it is not Civil War Trust property and right now it is unsure what will happen to it.

Public Safety: Darryl stated that he has been discussing with Michael about trying to put up signage at some of the alleys that you can drive down, but they do not go anywhere. He suggested signs stating something along the lines of "not a thru alley" to avoid anyone travelling them and getting hurt, or hurting pedestrians. Darryl moved to accept the camera bid from TSI and Russ seconded the motion. The motion carried. Darryl explained to the audience that we are looking into the cameras for security and safety and to keep an eye on the relics that we have in town hall.

Town Archives and Historical Planning: Ed is working on a complete list of the Town archives and will get this out to all the Councilmembers when completed. Ed did get an estimate for display cases, but they are very expensive, so he is going to obtain more estimates prior to the next meeting.

Mayor's Report: Green Fest in Boonsboro is in Shaffer Park on May 13th. The council was invited to the opening ceremonies. Todd Hershey, County Treasurer, send in a letter asking if we were going to raise taxes, so that they can print our tax bills again this year. The question was asked if we were going to raise taxes or not. Russ felt he did not see a reason why, as the Town was going to come out in the positive again this year.

Old Business

1. Veteran Flags: Information was obtain by Mr. and Mrs. Harris from a company that makes the flags for \$180. Kimberly gave the information to Michael to review, as he does this sort of thing as his business and could probably tell us if this is a good price or not. Michael will look over the information and see what he feels. He stated that it seems like a pretty reasonable price, from what he can see. Kimberly offered to call Boonsboro to see what size their flags are. We are a little too late for Memorial Day, but we can review and work on for Veterans Day.
2. Parade: There will be three, possibly four, riding with the Mayor and Council in the parade. Kimberly will obtain transportation for this
3. Russ questioned Brandon if he had a demolition crew that could meet this week to evaluate the Legion Building, as he would like to see if come down this summer. We are still awaiting to hear if Boonsboro and Sharpsburg were approved for a circuit rider/grant rider. Kimberly will check with Boonsboro to see if they have heard anything or know when we may hear something. There was question if the Legion was turned into a parking lot, how many cars would it hold. It would hold 21-22 cars

New Business

1. Mayor Spielman read a letter from the Historical Society. They would like permission to clean up the Big Spring Wall, which entails cleaning the debris off of the wall, removing the encroaching vegetation and re-painting some of the joints. They have chosen Monocacy Chimney Care to perform the work, after receiving several bids. They would like to try and have the wall completed by Memorial Day. They would like to offer this to the town as a courtesy for the town allowing them to use space in Town Hall for their headquarters. The motion to proceed was made by Brandon and seconded by Tamara. The motion carried.
2. Tamara asked about the light poles that Boonsboro has, and was suggesting that possibly we could find some grants to obtain some of the light poles, or decorative poles for Main Street. We would look into this.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:22pm by Ed and seconded by Michael. The motion carried. The next meeting will be Monday June 5th at 7pm at Town Hall.

Town News

Town Meetings

Town meetings are held on the first Monday of each month at 7pm in the council chambers of Town Hall. All town meetings are open to the public and agendas for the meetings will be posted on the door to Town Hall and on the town Facebook page the Wednesday prior to each meeting.

Mayor and Council workshop session

The Mayor and Council will be having a workshop session on Tuesday May 30th at 7pm in Town Hall to discuss a tree policy and capital improvement projects. Workshops are open to the public and agendas for the workshop meetings will be posted on the door to Town Hall and on the Facebook page a week prior to the meeting. This month the Mayor and Council will be discussing a tree policy.

150th Memorial Day Parade



The 150th Memorial Day Commemoration will be held Saturday May 27th. The wreath laying in front of Town Hall will begin at 11am, with a concert by the Rohrsersville Band to follow. The parade will begin at 1:30.

Please take note of the following road closures, so that you may plan your day accordingly:

From 11:00am-11:45am, Main Street from the intersection of Rt 34 and Rt 65 to the intersection of Rt 34 and Hall Streets will be closed. During this time, Antietam and Chapline Streets will be open for travel.

From 1:30pm-3:00pm, Rt 34 (Main Street) will be closed. There will be no cutting through the parade allowed, due to safety concerns.

Town Office Closures

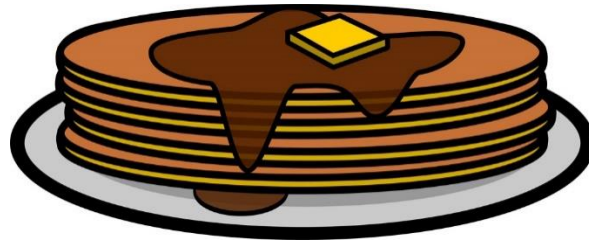
The office of the Clerk will be closed on Thursday May 25, Monday May 29 and Tuesday May 30.

TRASH COLLECTION DELAYED DUE TO MEMORIAL DAY HOLIDAY

Trash collection will be delayed the week of May 29th by one day. Trash should be placed out on Wednesday evening after 4pm for Thursday June 1st collection.

Community News and Events

Patriotic Pancake Breakfast



Victory Garden Ranch, located at 101 West Main Street, will be hosting a pancake breakfast the morning of the parade, Saturday May 27th, from 7am-10am. Pancakes, sausage, coffee, orange juice or water will be available. Proceeds benefit Come All Who Are Thirsty local nonprofit & Victory Garden Ranch's local community garden. Tickets can be purchased in advance at Victory Garden Ranch for \$4, noon to 5pm Thursday, Friday and Saturday prior to the event and \$5 the day of the event.

Book Signing by Dr. Tom Clemens at Victory Garden Ranch

Dr. Tom Clemens will be speaking about his works and having a book signing on Saturday May 27th at 11am at Victory Garden Ranch. Hear him speak about his literary works and his new release "Volume III: The Maryland Campaign of September 1862 - The Battle of Shepherdstown and the End of the Campaign" - Part III in a series about the 1862 Maryland Campaign. Dr. Clemens will then conduct a question & answer session and book signing. Copies of the book will be available for purchase, as well as "Volume I: South Mountain" and "Volume II: Antietam". {Book prices: Vol III-\$32.95; Vol I & II-\$37.50 each.}

COME ALL WHO ARE THIRSTY MONTHLY MEETING

The monthly meeting of the local veterans group, Come All Who Are Thirsty, will be held on Saturday June 3, 2017 at 9:30am at the Burnside First Church of God, located at 3904 Mills Road in Sharpsburg. Breakfast is provided and the meeting is open to all Veterans and their families, First Responders and anyone who has an interest in supporting Veterans.

World War I Soldier No Longer Lies In An Unmarked Grave



John Ellsworth Monroe, an African American, Sharpsburg native that fought in World War I was laid to rest August, 1975, in an unmarked grave in historical Tolson Chapel Cemetery in Sharpsburg. Ed Beeler, a member of Friends of Tolson's Chapel contacted Ava Gift, President of Antietam Unit 236 American Legion Auxiliary, to seek assistance in obtaining a grave marker for Mr. Monroe. Gift after researching and making numerous phone calls found that since he was an honorably discharged war veteran he was entitled to a government issued grave marker. She in turn contacted Osborne Funeral Home in Williamsport that handled the burial and they in turn completed the necessary paperwork to obtain a grave marker. On Tuesday, May 23, Scott Osborne, Colin Osborne and Colby Byers of Osborne Funeral Home installed the Arlington styled tombstone for Mr. John Monroe. A wreath and an American flag was immediately placed by Gift, on behalf of Antietam Unit 236 American Legion Auxiliary and as Chaplain for the Western Maryland District American Legion, as Elizabeth Creech and Ed Beeler members of Friends of Tolson's Chapel looked on. With Memorial Day approaching and this year being the 100th anniversary of the Great War the timing for the placement of the tombstone was most fitting. Mr. Monroe will no longer lie in an unmarked grave.

- Ava Gift

In Honor of Memorial Day, we would like to honor Mr. Warren 'Woodpecker' Davis

A6 The Daily Mail, Tuesday, May 11, 2004

LOCAL

Davis part of 'Greatest Generation'

Town of Sharpsburg looking for war veterans to honor; Veterans eligible for 'Registration of Remembrances' in D.C.

Warren Davis, who died in April 2000, certainly was one of "the greatest generation" that NBC anchorman Tom Brokaw talks about in his book, "The Greatest Generation."

That generation helped save America and the rest of the free world from the tyranny of Nazi Germany and imperial Japan during World War II. Davis's name, and those of his generation, certainly belong on the National World War II Memorial, which will be dedicated May 29 in Washington, D.C.

Anyone who helped win the war, either as a military veteran or on the homefront, is eligible for the "Registration of Remembrances," which will be accessible on site at the memorial in Washington, or on the Web.

Davis was one of many working men who got up every day and did their jobs and never expected to become a war hero. Born in 1922 in Fairplay, Davis was one of eight children. He was working for the Western Maryland Railroad when he was drafted into the Army in December 1942, and upon completion of his basic training he was assigned to the 405th Infantry Regiment, part of the 102nd "Ozark" Division.

During fighting in Germany at the Battle of Beeck on Nov. 22, 1944, T/Sgt. Davis "...single-handedly assaulted and neutralized a position that pinned down his company with murderous fire ... enabling his unit to



Warren Davis

advance." For his action, Davis was awarded the Silver Star. During this engagement, Davis's Company C sustained casualties to 173 of its 200 men. A day later, Davis was wounded during action with the enemy, for which he was presented the Purple Heart with Oak Leaf Clusters by 102nd Division Commander Brig. Gen. Bushe.

Although a hero by now, Davis almost didn't make it home. In May

1945, he was seriously wounded in the abdomen by enemy machine gun fire, and the men of his company, who believed he was dead, left him behind. It was not until 18 hours later that he was discovered by the soldiers of another company. His family received a telegram that he was missing in action. Meanwhile, Sgt. Davis had been hospitalized until December 1945, when he was honorably discharged from the army.

When he returned to the United States, Davis was awarded the following decorations and citations during ceremonies at Fort George G. Meade, Maryland: the Good Conduct Medal, two Purple Hearts with Oak Leaf Clusters, the American Theater Ribbon, the Silver Star, the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater Ribbon and the World War II Victory Ribbon.

Like many American heroes, Davis quietly returned to his life in the community and worked with the Western Maryland Railroad until his retirement in May 1995, having served as wreckmaster with 44 years of service. Davis was actively involved in the small community of Sharpsburg. He was fire chief of the Sharpsburg Volunteer Fire Company for 14 years and one of the founders of the Sharpsburg Area Rescue Service. He was active in the Boy Scouts, a member of the Sharpsburg Rifles, a former council member, a Past Commander and Life-

time member of Antietam Post 236 of the American Legion. He was also instrumental in the organization of the Potomac Valley Fire Company in Dargan.

Davis died in April of 2000 and is survived by his wife of 52 years, Amelia (Pansy) Davis, one daughter, Mary Ann Eichelberger, and three grandchildren. More than 1,500 members of Tom Brokaw's "Greatest Generation" die each day.

Sharpsburg to honor World War II veterans

The Town of Sharpsburg is seeking World War II veterans who are or have been residents of the southern part of Washington County to honor during the annual Memorial Day ceremonies. The names of veterans will be printed in the parade program, and the veterans will be honored in the morning and afternoon ceremonies, and presented with a certificate in recognition of service to their country.

Ceremony and parade organizers are also looking for candid photographs of the veterans (in camp, in the field, near military vehicles) for inclusion in the book. Call or contact Anna Jamison at the Town Hall at 301-432-4428. Callers may leave a message.

— Harry Nogle

Thank you to Mr. Davis' family for sharing this article with us. The article was unfortunately left out of the parade book, so we wanted to share it in the Crier. Mr. Davis certainly was a "Hometown Hero"

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
PO Box 368
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