

Mayor & Council of Sharpsburg Meeting Minutes Approved

Monday, March 7, 2022, 6 pm

- I. Call meeting to order and pledge-Ed
- II. Meeting minutes from February and Finances-meeting minutes were electronically sent to members and financial reports were copied and given to members with the agenda. Ed motioned to accept the meeting minutes; Jake seconded the motion all were in favor. February financials and year to date budget were reviewed; Mia motioned and Ed seconded, all were in favor.
- III. In attendance: Russ Weaver, Jake Martz, Mia Parsons, John Hammond, Joe Kudla, Ed Beeler, Carrie Estell, Tim Lung (via phone), Gary Candelaria, Matt Stevens, Perry Jamieson, Jen Bruni, Chris Vincent, Beatrix Gregg, David Guiney and Kaden Snyder

Mowing Bids-Four bids were turned in for the contract, (Shepherdstown Lawns, Leaman & Sons, RW Properties and Grand Lawn Services), submitted sealed bids. Carrie copied bids for council members while Russ reviewed the mayor's report. Mayor and council reviewed the four bids and Russ put the bid #s on the TV monitor. Bids were reviewed and based on the Shepherdstown's Lawn low price and experience, Jake motioned to accept their bid, Ed seconded the motion and all were in favor with the exception of Mia who abstained from voting, (her reason is that she did not have sufficient time to review). Matt will have to get back to the mayor and council for pricing on spraying the chained link fence.

Mayor's Report

Empower Maryland

Town Finances

American Recovery Act

Sustainable Community Application-Planning commission to receive an electronic copy.

Zoning with Tim

- Continue to work on obtaining the necessary information to complete the zoning permit application for the Short-Term Rental at 110 S. Mechanic Street, owned by Gideon Properties. Draft copy of a parking easement plat has been submitted. Waiting for submittal of the recorded parking easement document.
- Working with the County in regard to naming of some alleys. Zoom meeting with County staff to occur on Monday March 21.
- Will be attending Planning Commission meeting on this Wednesday evening to go over 2022 action items that were listed in my January report.
- 121 E. Chapline Street. Issued a zoning violation letter of the construction of a fence without a permit and for use of the property as a Short-Term Rental without proper zoning approval and zoning permit. Owner has 30 days to obtain a permit for the fence and shall cease and desist the STR immediately.
- Received from Fred Frederick a subdivision plat draft to divide off the town spring from the Hall property on East Antietam Street to be conveyed to the Town. Will review per the Subdivision Ordinance and submit to the Planning Commission for approval.

David Guiney, Interpretive Directive Plans for Park were showcased these ideas came from the community interactive workshop, David briefed the mayor and council in a summarized fashion

- Different zones for the park
- Children and parents to feel safe-this will be done by a border of hedges
- Areas that enter the park, great idea to be part of the Antietam National Park tour, being one of the stops
- Entrance and exits with crosswalk-close to the Lutheran Cemetery and National Cemetery
- Alley ten towards Tolson's Chapel, town pond and Big Spring
- Room for walk ways
- Recommendations-street banners, boundaries, informative signage, a place for visitors and residents to enjoy, appealing landscaping, welcoming architecture, parking to be off Church Street, this will be close and have enough space for cars and buses. Handicapped accessible, Dos and Don'ts of the park, traditional/native Sharpsburg/Washington county stone wall, worm fencing and hedges
- Visitors will be able to see Piper House, Lutheran Church, there will be connections to the Canal and Route 34-folks will be able to see structures that were present during the Antietam Battle.
- State recognized would be very beneficial, a Sharpsburg Battle plaque
- Pathway system-a beginning concept perimeter walk, focal point in the middle could include a gathering area, sculpture or monument.
- Purpose of the park to learn about Sharpsburg, map to assist with points of interest highlighted
- Due to the land falling away and not being able to dig or build, raising the ground to help with the ascetics
- Typical park amenities-benches, water fountain, trash receptacle, bike rack, lighting for night time walks,

- Good idea to honor, respect and recognize veterans. Establish donors, Chris Vincent suggested memorial donation bricks for a possible walkway.
- Area for Big Spring information, since the park has a small section of the Big Spring, possible to have a small bench with some educational material to learn about the spring
- Out Buildings could be staging areas for tours, possible restrooms, living history programs, an outside amphitheater-speakers, performers, history entertainment and/or movies.

Residents/Public Comments

- **Perry Jamieson**-between his house and the Short's residence, the alley appears to be paved with soft filler, (223 East Main Street and East 225 Main Street). When it rains or there is an ice storm or it snows, it deteriorates the alley way. Joe said he would drive by the areas and access the situation.
- **Matt Stevens, (from Shepherdstown Lawn)**-spoke on behalf of the Little League and as an active and concerned parent, he became aware that the town wanted to open the fields for anyone to use. This was not accurate; mayor and council spoke at length with the Little League representatives last meeting. Matt wanted the council to know that a lot of money and volunteer work hours go into maintaining the pristine fields. He feels that vandalism would be a problem.
- **Christ Vincent**-reminded the council and those present that the Sharpsburg Lion's Club is hosting a Dinner at St. Paul's church to assist folks who are 65 or better with services and assistance via MD Community for Life. There's a small fee of \$10 and dinner is provided.
- **Bea Gregg**-wanted mayor and council to be aware of the issue of feral cats in town. There was a dead cat in an alley a couple weeks ago, Carrie said she got a few calls about the cat. There's a large population of the feral cats and as a result there are many liters of kittens. IN certain areas of town their spray and feces leave a very unpleasant smell. Carrie will reach out to Tim if there are any ordinances that could be enforced. There are companies that can be contacted to see if there are any solutions.

Council comments

- **Joe Kudla-streets, roads & culverts**
 - Bridge work and guardrail repair have been shown to two paving companies, (Craig Paving is still waiting on concrete pricing). D&H Paving does not do any concrete work but Pat Carroll provided Joe with a subcontractor's contact information, Cory B. and he's going to be coming out Wednesday to take a look at the jobs. Will also get bids from him on sidewalks. Read some good feedback on Facebook about Martin Brothers and have reached out to that company as well.
 - Water Main Break that occurred Feb. 17th Robbie was able to clean up the debris from the break. Residents were very appreciative.
 - Prisoner work program-working on getting an estimate, this could be don't quarterly project
 - Garbage pick up
 - Clean gutter pans
 - Culvert cleaning
 - Brush trimming and removal are just a few of the tasks slated for this project
 - Blue Lines to be painted for the handicapped parking areas
 - We were given the go ahead to get safety fencing for the culvert area near the bank, planning commission will look at options.
 - MDOT is redoing Boonsboro's town square this summer. They will be doing stamped brick. Joe will reach out to his contacts at MDOT to see if there are other areas this type of improvement has been done. This is not service the town will be billed for; it's a service through the state.
 - Wall survey should almost be finished. The surveyors have been spotted doing their work. Wall improvements/maintenance will be the state's responsibility.
- **Robbie Waters-parks, railroad station, town operations**
 - Not in attendance-he ordered new swings for the playground park
- **John Hammond-Building and Infrastructure**
 - Russ, Jake and myself worked on the mowing bid sheet, the year some improvements were pictures of the areas to be mowed
 - Will meet with Russ after tonight's meeting to discuss the next steps on the wells; next steps include meeting with our lawyer and the county's well point person and their lawyer.
 - John suggested to check Flagger Force for the tree project, Joe stated he has reached out to the company and they have not returned his calls/emails.
- **Ed Beeler-Historical Planning, town archives, communications, grants**
 - January 2022 - Attendance: 155 February Attendance: 46
 - Daniel Gregg started as the third intern; Adam Oates was promoted to Lead Intern. Adam will work with the interns & sit in on student intern interviews.
 - 2022 starts our 5th year as a museum; some of our goals were:
 - To be a 501© (3) non-profit
 - To have volunteers to help in museum as of 2022, we have three student Interns, 21 volunteers and a board of six
 - To find a home for our museum
 - To start a program to involve both public and home school children
 - Upcoming events include:

- Metal Detecting Exhibit is on March 26th from 9-4
 - April 9th will be our Indian Artifact / Arrow Heads Exhibit
 - May 14th will be our History of the Sharpsburg Fire and EMS Exhibit
 - We are currently pursuing a new home for the museum; there are a few options, more information next month.
 - Russ would like for the museum to be self-sufficient and self-funding. Rent would be their responsibility. The council will continue to offer an annual donation.
- **Jacob Martz-Vice Mayor, communications, Memorial Day Parade, grants**
 - Memorial Day Parade
 - Submitted grant application for 10K from Hotel Rental Tax Fund and received, positive recommendations from the county commissioners.
 - Received 3k grant
 - Purchased flags to hand out
 - Sent out invitations and 13 applications have been returned
 - Grand Marshal is a WWII veteran from the 101st Airborne who landed on Normandy on D-Day and Operation Market Garden in Holland.
 - Next meeting will be on Tuesday March 15th at 6 pm
 - Grants-assisted on the MHAA Grand and drafted letter of support
- **Mia Parsons-Planning-Streetscape, grants**
 - Tree contract with Bartlett
 - When replacement happens, there needs to be a better variety of species
 - The price of the trimming, pruning and removal is high, (\$11,676), however if the town is diligent with the trees' care, this will be the largest bill and the billing for maintenance will be less. The high price of this service is due to the lack of care.
 - Carrie filled out and submitted all the permits and got prices from Traffic companies, (Directional Traffic is 1200/day and they take care of everything while the other company-Flaggers, has not gotten back, (phone, email request).
 - Mia brought motioned for the council, Joe seconded, all were in favor of the expense
 - The scope of work for Bartlett and contracting traffic assistance total price to not go over 16K
 - Planning Committee to meet this Wednesday at Town Hall (March 9th)
 - Will check in with Mike A. to see the town's response to banner for vets that was in The Town Crier
 - Will coordinate with Joe on a railing system for culvert near square
 - Russ spoke at length with Linda Puffenberger, she reached out and wants to assist with a Streetscape Refresh. Joe, Mia and Russ to meet with her soon. Her schedule is a bit restricted and the meeting will need to be in the morning.

Town Partnership Representatives

- **Chris Vincent-**
 - Discussed The Lions Club Dinner that is being held this Thursday night its focus will be on assisting older persons with help with their independence and well-being while aging in place.
 - The committee met on Thursday, February 10, 2022, conducted via Zoom.
 - Board Member Robert Murphy has submitted his resignation from the committee as he will be moving out of Washington County.
 - Superintendent Trail discussed the rehabilitation project of the Visitor's Center. The project is moving along well and is on schedule with a completion date of mid-August. The indoor construction demolition is complete, and work has begun on the additions to the front lobby and the back office and conference room. The plumbing and HVAC systems are currently being installed.
 - The museum exhibits are currently being reviewed and fabrication will begin soon.
 - The contract has been awarded for the making of a new orientation film. The new film will be approximately 23 minutes and the concept planning is underway. Filming will be conducted in October. Most of the filming will be off site, near the park except for some filming at the Burnside Bridge. The film is expected to be completed the end of 2023. Part of the film will be used on the video screen that will be in the Visitor Center lobby.
 - Discussion and planning for the 160th Battle Anniversary is ongoing. Due to the work at the Visitor Center and other projects the event will not be that big, like the 150th. Many of the events and activities will be concentrated around the Visitor Center and the Mumma farm.
 - Other Projects: HPTC continues to work on the preservation project at the Piper house with the metal roof replacement, window repairs and exterior work. A new HVAC system was also installed. Work has begun at the Pry House with the rehab of the front portico and windows. Later in the fall work will begin on the D.R. Miller house, focusing on the porch, windows, and the stucco.
 - The artillery carriages at the artillery display be replaced this year and a reproduction of a 20lb Parrot cannon will be placed outside the Visitor Center once completed.
 - Trail Rehab Project will begin again soon. The trail crew will focus on the southern end of the field looking at the Burnside Bridge, Final Attack and Snavely Ford area. A trail along the historic Piper Lane will be added and crossing point across MD 34 to connect to the southern trails. Two waysides will be placed along the Miller pasture trail in the general location where the Alexander Garner photos were taken.
 - Land Acquisition: The Park is still working with the American Battlefield Trust to acquire the old Katie Poffenburger property that sits just across from the Visitor Center. Another property that the Park is working with the ABT to acquire is the

Longerbean property that the ABT recently purchased at 5828 Sharpsburg Pike. This property may provide an access point for future interpretation and walking trails on park property west of MD Route 65.

- The public review of the Land Use Management Plan / Environmental Assessment is scheduled for June. This plan and EA 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>
- Details on the now meeting will be posted on the website.
- The Memorial Illumination on December 4, 2021, went very well and a new volunteer parking pattern was developed for future events.
- Mr. Vincent will contact Krista Hart to get applications that are on file for individuals that may wish to fill openings on the advisory board.
- The next meeting is scheduled for June 8, 2022
- **Mike Arant-Town Crier Not in attendance**
- **Officer Peyton Report February (not in attendance, submitted electronic report)**
 - Normal dedicated checks: Park 9, Little League 6, School 9, Antietam Station 12
 - 1.5 hrs. foot patrol
 - 6 hrs. traffic enforcement 2 citations, 4 warnings
 - responded to disorderly call resulting in criminal arrest, resolved a trespasser at Battleview Market, and a wild animal
 - assisted the county with 2 crashes, and a domestic

Old Business/ACTIONS

Big Spring acquisition-ordinance review and approval of subdivision-Russ gave an overview of the purchase of the Big Spring purchase; he summarized the ordinance and asked council for a vote on the purchase, Jake motioned for the purchase of the Big Spring property and Joe 2nd the motion and all were in favor of the purchase of the Big Spring for 5K.

New Business

- Korean War Veterans Museum "The Forgotten War" at Ft. Ritchie
 - This will be the theme of next year's Memorial Day parade, 2023 and if any councilmembers know of residents who served in the Korean War, let Jake know.
 - The Washington County Commissioners donated 10K, Jake motions for a donation of 1k to the museum, Joe 2nd the motion and all were in favor of the town donating to the museum.
- Design and development phase of the park
 - Jake and Russ met with three landscape architects to get ideas and feedback.
 - The cost is 50K but will be shovel ready with plans, two design concepts will be provided
 - As of today, we have a commitment from many individuals and organizations of at least 8k.
 - Chris Vincent suggested getting the community involved by doing a memorial brick fund raiser
 - David Guiney also mentioned that there is a lot of money from historical organizations and many who he has spoken to about the project are excited for the park.
 - Fred Siebert will do any civil engineering that is required
 - With the high cost of this project, it is contingent on the town receiving matching funding. The funding as of now required to move forward is 12,500. Jake motioned for the expenditure; Joe seconded the motion.; all were in favor.
 - Russ stated that if funding for the project does not go through, the town will clean up the area and install a few benches with minimal landscaping and a welcome sign.

Meeting adjourned at 8:38, all were in favor.

