



Sharpshurg Town Crier

The Roger Moore Edition



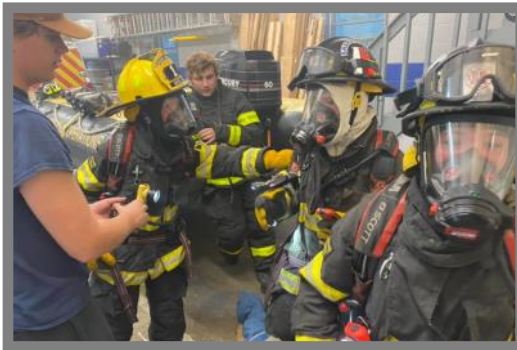
Volume 30

September 2022

Number 9

Sharpshurg Volunteer Fire Company Cadets

This month, the Town Crier showcases one of most remarkable youth development programs in our area, the SVFC (Sharpshurg Volunteer Fire Company) Cadets. The Editor sat down with Mr. Matt Ryan, Deputy Fire Chief, who along with Mr. Jay Brandenburg, Lieutenant, manages the program. Jay previously reported on this program in the May 2021 edition of the Crier.

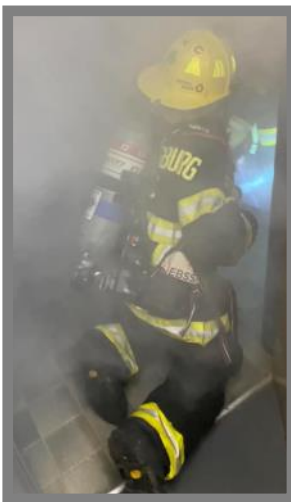


Cadets Aubrey, Aiden & Liam supervised by Firefighters Brogan and Austin preparing to conduct a search in a smoke filled room.

These youth are discovering an important life success concept, being part of something bigger than themselves!

The program is part of a state and national project to introduce young people of 12 to 15 years to the important job of protecting their communities. At 16 years, Cadets can transition into regular fire company status, and most do.

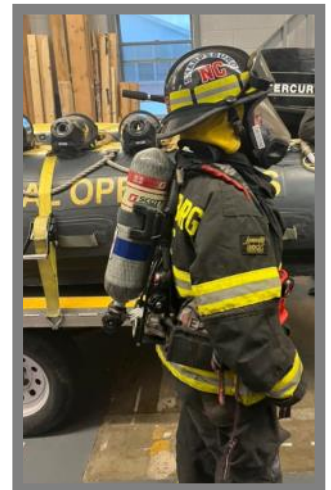
the first responder, firefighting, and rescue discipline. The range of operations to which these young folks are introduced is astonishing: personal protection equipment, self-contained breathing apparatus, fire behavior, building construction, search and rescue, wildland firefighting, hose line operations, vehicle extrication, emergency communications, firefighter safety, scene evaluation, ladders, ropes and knots, ventilation, forcible entry, fire attack, rural water supply, salvage/overhaul, and coordinated operations.



Cadet Liam lighting the way

In addition, they participate in organizational fundraising, advanced training, and maintaining facilities and equipment. You're invited to one of their fundraisers, a "Pancake and Sausage Breakfast by SVFC Cadets", on the morning of Sharpshurg Days, October 1 from 7AM to 10AM in the Fire Company Annex at 110 W. Chapline St.

Cadets typically meet on second and fourth Mondays for training. The program's overall goal is to prepare Cadets to enroll into Maryland Fire and Rescue classes. These are required for all Regular members of Maryland's fire and rescue cadre, including



Cadet Aubrey waiting



FF Brogan, FF Austin and FF Ben demonstrate to the Cadets the proper technique's for removing an injured

training youth in the discipline of first response, firefighting, and rescue. His narrative is filled with statements like "this activity builds character and character counts"...it emphasizes that participants "represent family and SVFC in the community"... "it's a great program to get your kids involved in and give back to the community".

The Editor would like to add that future is built by optimists. The Cadet program exemplifies this idea in our community.

- Editor

Volunteering at SVFC

You may have noticed on the lit sign by the fire station that SVFC is looking for volunteers. Matt emphasized that they're looking for volunteers with skills well beyond "operational level" (first response, fire, and rescue). They could use expertise in administration, fund raising, or whatever skills you bring to the table.



SVFC. They also earn Student Service Learning hours.

Enrollment is easy; go to the SVFC homepage and go to the Cadet Program link. There you'll find an application link, <https://sharpsburgvfc.org/>

Matt also shared some personal goals and expectations over and above the particulars of



FF Austin taking a break after assisting with an evacuation

Firetruck Restoration

The restoration of one our long-retired fire trucks continues. It's currently awaiting paint to return it to the original white livery as seen here. Once restoration is completed this story will be a feature story in the Crier, an astounding narrative, including a former Fire Chief, a train wreck, rumbling along in southern fields doing wildfire work, and re-discovery by SVFC online! Anyway, contact SVFC if you'd like to contribute to this project. The project is funded solely by volunteer contributions.



About the Town

Tolson's Chapel and Cemetery Preservation Workshop

As part of the 160th commemoration of the battle, the town offered several interesting events including a workshop on cleaning gravestones and a talk by an author who specializes in black history.

Ms. Zola Barnes from Preservation Maryland visited Tolson's and explained the process and participants got busy cleaning many of the markers in the



Tolson graveyard. Ms. Barnes explained and demonstrated the process. She emphasized that "restoration" is not the goal. Attempting to bring the gravestones back to their original look often damages them irreversibly. Instead, she demonstrated the "safe" process that removes dirt, mold, and lichen while minimizing damage. In this process, "less is more".

Dr. Emilie Amt, author of Black Antietam, spoke on the experience of our black community at the time of the battle. Readers would be amazed at the significant population of

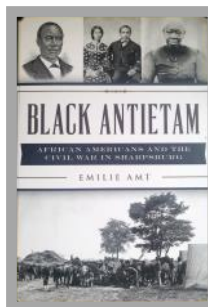
black residents, their contribution to this small place, and their involvement in the battle and aftermath. In addition to the experience of black residents, she introduced us to the little recognized experience of African Americans in the battle. Although Antietam was prior to the incorporation of black troops, they participated as slaves/servants to officers and in great numbers as a support work force (e.g., blacksmiths, teamsters, muleteers, laborers).

Ms. Bridgett Smith, Friends of Tolson's Chapel President, shared some thoughts. She's excited to be part of the Tolson's Chapel project, making it part of, in her words, a "vibrant presence" in our town. She shared the idea that the Tolson community was a significant part of the economics of our community in the past and that her goal is to make it economically significant in our time. This includes being a destination for tourists, history lovers, and students of black culture.



Zola Barnes Preservation MD, Dr. Emilie Amt, author, *Black Antietam* and Bridgett Jones Smith, President, Friends of Tolson's Chapel

By surviving mostly intact, Tolson's is a rare treasure in the history of black community, architecture, and property. Most such infrastructure is lost. It is a powerful Historical Ambassador of that experience in our own time.



Sharpsburg Cheddar Places Second!

The local Lanco-Penland Cooperative's Penland Pure plant announces that their "Sharpsburg Cheddar" placed second in the Aged Cheddar category at the American Cheese Society Annual Conference. This year over 1,400 cheeses were anonymously submitted and graded from an esteemed panel of 30 judges.

Speaking of aged cheese, note the classic Alex-



ander Gardner photograph taken from Cemetery Hill on the 19th of September '62 as he heard the artillery thunder four miles away at the Battle of Shepherdstown.

This cheese is available locally, including at our own Battleview Market.

Ms. Alyssa Griffith, Battleview Market

From the Town Council

We Remember: Mr. Guy Widden

(This article is condensed from a message posted by Vice Mayor Jacob Martz.)

The Crier reports the passing of Mr. Guy Widden, one of the Grand Marshals of this year's Memorial Day commemoration.

He was born in Wyncote, Pennsylvania in June 1923. In February 1942, two



Mr. Guy Widden, Grand Marshal, and Mr. Jacob Martz, Vice Mayor

months after the attack on Pearl Harbor, he enlisted in the US Army at the age of 18 and was initially assigned as a mapmaker with the 8th Infantry Division before volunteering as a Paratrooper in September 1942.

His first combat action was during the Normandy invasion on June 6, 1944 with the 502nd Parachute Infantry Regiment of the famed 101st Airborne Division, dropping into France just outside of St. Mère-Église. After Normandy, later that year, he was sent with the 101st to Holland for Operation Market Garden, where he was grievously wounded.

After his recovery, Guy returned to Ft. Benning, Georgia where he was promoted to Sergeant, and served out the rest of the war as a jump school instructor. Sergeant Whidden received the Purple Heart and Good Conduct Medal for his honorable wartime service.

Following his wartime service, Guy became a schoolteacher, and would later write the book "Between the Lines and Beyond: Letters of a 101st Airborne Paratrooper" about his experiences in the military.

The community remembers him and offers our sincerest condolences to his family. We remain ever grateful for his sacrifices and his service, both to our Nation and our community, may he Rest in Peace.

Introducing the Sharpsburgh Museum of History Website

It is my honor to announce the official Launch of the Sharpsburgh Museum of History's Website. Go to <https://sharpsburghmuseumofhistory.com/>

It will have everything you will need to know about our museum and more. A special thank you to Laura Oates Design, who designed our site.



This is a great way to celebrate Sharpsburgh Museum of History's 5th Anniversary. With our website we have almost fulfilled our 5-year goals, we have it all but having our own building for the museum's home; this is in the works and will be coming in the near future.

- Ed Beeler, Executive Director, Sharpsburgh Museum of History

Community Calendar

September 30 from 5PM to 8PM:
History in the Vineyard (Part of Sharpsburg Days)

Antietam Creek Vineyard
Sharpsburgh Museum of History
301-800-6877 or Loveshistory.1866@gmail.com

October 1 from 9:15AM to 12:45PM:
Trivia Challenge! Stop by the Library on Sharpsburg Days. Pick up some Sharpsburg Trivia questions. Answer them all and win a prize! Need help? Ask the librarian, the museum staff or look through our books about Sharpsburg.

Sharpsburg Library
301-432-8825

October 1 from 9:30AM to 11:30AM:
Come All Who Are Thirsty Veterans Group Meeting & Breakfast

Burnside First Church of God, 3904 Mills Road
cawatveterans@gmail.com www.comeallwhoarethirsty.org

October 1, 2022 (9AM to 4PM):

Sharpsburg Days

301-800-6877 or Loveshistory.1866@gmail.com

October 1 at 2PM: **Jim Smith, Fairchild's Brigade**

Pry House Field Hospital Museum, 18906 Shepherdstown Pike
Rachel.Moses@civilwarmed.org

October 1 from 7AM to 10AM: **Pancake and Sausage Breakfast by SVFC Cadets**

Fire Company Annex at 110 W. Chapline St.
The Sharpsburg Volunteer Fire Company
sharpsbugvfc@gmail.com 301-432-6321

October 3 at 6PM: **Town Council Meeting**

Sharpsburg Town Hall
106 E Main St, Sharpsburg, MD 21782
301-432-4428

October 15 at 2PM: **Matt Borders, Ransom's Brigade**

Pry House Field Hospital Museum, 18906 Shepherdstown Pike
Rachel.Moses@civilwarmed.org

October 23 at 9:20AM: **Free Community Breakfast.**

Everyone is Welcome!
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
209 West Main Street
stpaulssharpburg.com; facebook.com/stpaulssharpburg; loveforchil-
dren@stpaulssharpburg.com ; 301-432-7098

October 6 to 20 any time the library is open. **Tiny Art Contest:** Get in the autumn spirit by decorating a 4x4 canvas for fall. Pick up your canvas any time after October 6 (While supplies last) and return it decorated by October 20th. There will be age categories and prizes

awarded. Use any medium and let your imagination run wild! Winners will be determined by popular vote and announced October 27th.

Sharpsburg Library
301-432-8825

October 27 at 3:30PM: **Halloween Party!** Scary stories, games and a spooky treat!

Sharpsburg Library
301-432-8825

November 27 at 9:20AM: **Free Community Breakfast.**

Everyone is Welcome!
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
209 West Main Street
stpaulssharpburg.com; facebook.com/stpaulssharpburg ; loveforchil-
dren@stpaulssharpburg.com ; 301-432-7098

Recurring Events 2022

1st Wednesday of the month 1PM
Adults: Book Share

October 5 we will discuss the One Maryland One Book selection, "What's Mine and Yours", by Naima Coster.

Sharpsburg Library
301-432-8825

Kid's Zone: Ages Eight and Up
Sharpsburg Library anytime we are open Make a Mini Zen Garden! For tweens and teens!

301-432-8825

Thursdays at 3:30PM: **Storytime**
Masks are required for those 2 and up during Storytime in the library.

Sharpsburg Library
301-432-8825

Second Thursdays every month, **Li-on's Club** 7PM, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 209 W. Main St, Sharpsburg, MD 21782

First Saturdays at 10AM: **Lego Club**
Sharpsburg Library 301-432-8825

Area Churches

Christ Reformed Church
117 West Main Street
Sharpsburg
301-432-6182
Sundays: 9AM

United Christian Fellowship
18823 Shepherdstown Pike,
Keedysville, MD 21756
301-432-0110
Sundays: 8:45AM Fellowship, 9AM
Sunday School, 10AM Worship &
Children's Church

Sharpsburg Church of the Brethren
123 E Main St, Sharpsburg
Sundays at AM, Sunday School at
10:30AM
301-432-4944
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
209 West Main Street
Sharpsburg
301-432-7098
Sundays: 10AM, Sunday School
(Second and Fourth Sundays start-
ing September 25)

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
209 West Main Street
Sharpsburg
301-432-7098
Sundays: 10AM, Sunday School
(Second and Fourth Sundays start-
ing September 25)

Burnside First Church of God
3904 Mills Rd, Sharpsburg

Sharpsburg Bible Church
5134 General Stuart Court, Sharps-
burg
301-432-5309
Sunday School 9:30 AM to 10:30
AM, Sunday Morning Worship &
Children's Church 10:30 AM to
11:30 AM

Mayor & Councilpersons

Russ Weaver – Mayor

Jacob Martz – Vice Mayor

Mia Parsons – Council

John Hammond – Council

Ed Beeler-Council

Robbie Waters – Council

Joe Kudla – Council

(Carrie Estell – Town Clerk)

106 East Main Street

PO Box 368

Sharpsburg, Maryland 21782

Phone: [301-432-4428](tel:301-432-4428)

Fax: 301-432-8990

<https://sharpsburgmd.com/>

townofsharpsburg@comcast.net

[https://www.facebook.com/](https://www.facebook.com/TheTownOfSharpsburg)

TheTownOfSharpsburg

Zoning Administrator-Tim Lung

Sharpsburg.md.zoning@gmail.com

msa 8/27/22 Ver1.0

ATTACHMENT:

Mayor & Council of Sharpsburg
Meeting Minutes
Mayor & Council of Sharpsburg
Meeting Minutes DRAFTED
Monday, September 12, 2022
6 PM

- I. Call meeting to order and pledge Joe led the council, visitors and residents in the pledge, Russ asked for a moment of silence for those killed in 9/11 and for the passing of Queen Elizabeth.
- II. Meeting minutes from August 2022 were emailed to all council members, some adjustments were made. Ed motioned for the meeting minutes to be accepted and Robbie seconded; all were in favor of accepting the meeting minutes from August to be approved.

In attendance: Russ Weaver, Robbie Waters, Ed Beeler, John Hammond, Jacob Martz, Mia Parsons, Joe Kudla, Carrie Estell, Brian Lynch, Tom Williams, Ed Brinkley, Perry Jamieson, Jen Bruni and Chris Vincent.

Public Comments

Perry Jamieson-thanked Robbie Waters and his company for their work on the alley situation at his house. Since the improvement, it has rained and no gravel has moved. The trenches, gravel and stone appear to be working. The rain tonight will be another test to the improvement. Mr. Jamieson thanked the town's quick response.

Brian Lynch, Tom Williams & Ed Brinkley-Antietam Broadband Cable

Presented their company for competition for cable for the town's residents. Their commitment to a local company and giving back to the communities they serve was highlighted. Many programs are local high school games. They've been in the community for over 55 years

Pride themselves in customer service and as good communicators; a highlight was customer service issues resolved over their new chat feature.

300/300 and 600/600 service; 1.3 gig starting service, pricing is simplistic. There will be about 5.3 miles of aerial wiring and 1.5 miles of underground. All monies for this project are from private funds, no grants or federal monies.

Time line of construction is pole surveys, attachment rights and walk out and design. This will start within 30 days after signage is complete. This will be a quick build as the aerial work has been completed. Pre and post construction pictures will be done to make sure any ground disturbed will be put in their pre-construction appearance

Hot spots will be available in and around the town's square/town center.

Mayor and council will discuss towards the end of the meeting and vote on Antietam internet services for the town. Carrie will call Brian tomorrow with their decision.

Mayor's Report

Budget/Finances-August expenses and income was distributed and briefly discussed, Robbie motioned to accept, Ed seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Thrifty-Grants-Russ reviewed the grants money received and was happy with the work.

Banners for Vets (5 needed for production) As of today, we have seven banners paid for with five in production. The banner company will do in a group of five. We need to have three more for the next production phase. Discussion was held on vets who served in the military as a recipient of the banners, this will allow for more banner recipients.

Library parking sign-discussion was held on library specific sign for hours, the current sign is outdated and with their limited hours council discussed to have library, only for handicapped drivers. Best scenario is no signs, Robbie will take down, parking will be done as a first come first served basis.

Tim Lung, Zoning

Investigated and forwarded a complaint to the County Building Inspector regarding a potential unsecured/unsafe structure at 316 W. Main Street. Waiting for a follow-up report from the County. County stated that the property needs to be put in order.

Received a complaint from a citizen that the street lights are out at the corner of Church and E. Main (Rt 65 and Rt 34). Carrie to follow up with the power company.

Investigating a complaint regarding poultry at 135 W. Main St.

Been working with a person who wishes to purchase the vacant lot along South Hall Street behind 120 W. Antietam Street, for the purpose of locating a single-family dwelling regarding setbacks, access to the alley, permitting process and planning commission review of the permit, etc.

Talked to a person regarding the possibility of establishing a retail business at the corner of E. Main and S. Mechanic Street in front of Nutters. Requested that they send me more info regarding the nature of the business before making a zoning determination.

Reviewed and signed off on a building permit application for repairs to a garage located at 223 E. main Street. Will need County review.

Received a request for review of some proposed small "shingle" type signs for businesses at 101 W. Main St. The proposed signs meet the requirements. Zoning Ordinance does not require permits for signs.

Need to inspect the property at 125 W. Main for compliance with weeds/tall grass notice.

Need to inspect the property at 205 W. High Street for compliance with weeds/tall grass notice.

Property at 121 E. Main Street was supposed to be cleaned up by the property owner's representative. Need to inspect.

Need to schedule a field meeting with the Wash Co Public Schools and the County regarding an on-going drainage issue related to the Stormwater Management facility at the Elementary school.

Need to finalize the minutes of the last Planning Commission meeting and submit for the Chairpersons signature. Also need to research several items of concern requested by the Planning Commission for follow up and discussion at a future meeting.

After listening to the Antietam Cable presentation, a utility permit will need to be required.

Council comments

- **Robbie Waters-parks, railroad station, town operations**

- Cemetery Spray was done, the Johnson Grass is very invasive and difficult to kill.

- Pond is very low; Robbie will reach out to the fire department and see if they can clear any clogging. Russ mentioned previously Rotor Rooter was called to assist with clogging.

- ✦ Picnic tables all but the larger handicapped ones (2) are installed

- ✦ The larger tables need to have a cement slab and will be taken care of

- ✦ Floating docks will be priced out to build vs already built and shipping

- ✦ Mulched playground park and cleared brush and hanging trees around the outer fence area. Looks like it could be a good walking path. Council to think about that

- ✦ Story Walk was discussed with Carrie and Robbie will be able to install and maintenance should not be an issue.

- ✦ Brush Pick UP date(s)-will be the week of October 23rd (Carrie will post information on Facebook and in the Post Office)

- ✦ The sidewalk at the Lutheran Cemetery will be cleaned up and cleared in November.

- ✦ **John Hammond-Building and Infrastructure**

- JS Electric estimate update-company was nonresponsive for discussion on estimate

- A different company, (RS Electric), will come by Wednesday, September 21st to review the issues for the electrical work needed for Town Hall and outside at Town Center. Jake will be at Town Hall to discuss issues for the new company.

- **Ed Beeler-Historical Planning, town archives, communications, grants**

- Monthly Attendance: 199, bringing a total year to date 1674 – last year: 1639

- Acquired many artifacts from the froBoyer estate: ledgers from the Boyer Store, Red Men's Club, invoices from various Sharpsburg Stores, photos, two church related books from the German Reformed Church both in German and date were 1776 and 1784, wills, deeds and other local documents of Sharpsburg .

- Sharpsburg Days is only three weeks away, as of right now there is food Vendors: 7, Crafts: 6, Nonprofit: 5 and demos: 6 plus the museum information table along with the Sharpsburg Brick Club which brings a total of 26

- **Jacob Martz-Vice Mayor, communications, Memorial Day Parade, grants**

- Worked with Tim and Fred Frederick on the survey for the Big Spring purchase

- Assisted with the Battle of Antietam Banners

- Purchased a new TV for meetings

- Working with the landscape architect on concept review for Historic Pocket Park, meeting to take place Sept. 27th at 11:00 am

- Completed a 10K grant Hotel Grant for Pocket Park

- September parade meeting was postponed, next meeting will be in October.
 - Working with Tim on drafting a property maintenance ordinance.
 - Jake reviewed with the council the latest with the historic walls; MDOT would repair but wants to put up railing. Tony Crawford's opinion is the same as the town's that no railing is needed or warranted.
 - Mia Parsons-Planning-(Streetscape), grants
 - Fall tree replacement-working on a draft for fall replacement, there are small, medium and large suggestions from the arborist. Mia will gather a list of species based on their recommendations. The replacements will be decided with input from homeowners' via Town Crier and/or Facebook.
 - Alleys walk update-will be scheduled soon and invites will come via text/email
 - Joe Kudla-streets, roads & culverts
 - Sidewalks, bus stop areas were photographed and emailed to council
 - ✦ Pictures of bus stops were reviewed
 - ✦ John stated that the WCPS and their transportation department moves the bus stops almost all the time
 - ✦ Sidewalk work will not be done for school bus stops at this time
 - ✦ Requested a survey by FSA for the water issues on the corner of Antietam and Church. Issues were discussed, Carrie will respond to FSA's email and have them try to assist the town with this issue.
 - ✦ Still waiting on historic wall report from Cecil Kincaid, the inspection was done late August. Carrie will call to get an idea on completion.
 - ✦ Joe will reach out to Cody of No Mow Worries about concrete left at park.
 - ✦ ZOOM meeting with Senator Corderman scheduled for Thursday, September 22nd at 10 am, majority of this meeting will be funding for the walls, streetscape in regards to sidewalks will also be part of the discussion.
 - ✦ Joe will share with council the curbs that need to be fixed throughout town; with the price of \$115/linear foot, this could be a pricey project, but much needed. Curbs that are in dire need of repair will be slated for fixing.
- This year MDOT will do the lines on Main Street near the walls; they will also do parking lines to help with the traffic issues on the corner of Main and Church, the parking lines will be Ls or Ts as they will give us a few different options to choose from. They were running behind schedule and Joe hopes this will be taken care of this year.

Community Partners

- Chris Vincent-advisory board
- Next meeting is this week, Wednesday, September 14th
- Many events are scheduled for the Antietam Battlefield, Russ commented on the landscaping of the park.
- Banners for businesses (same style of the Tolson's banners)-Chris brought this up as an option for banners to be hung on "off seasonal" times and to promote local business. Russ thought it would be a good idea to have this to promote local businesses. Banners would be purchased by the business and hung and stored by the town. Carrie was tasked with writing up a short banner for business policy.
- Mike Arant-Town Crier-not present
- Officer Peyton-March report, electronically submitted
- Checks-Antietam Station-9, School-11, Park-10, ball field-2,
- 3 hrs. foot patrol
- 8 hrs. traffic-3 citations /4 warnings
- crash investigation, domestic dispute, family dispute, and assist with mental disturbance
- 2 hrs. court

Old Business/ACTIONS

Apple Valley Waste contract (expires 12/31/2022) copy was emailed to council

B&B Auto snow removal (expires 12/31/2022) copy was emailed to council-both contracts will be sent out for bidding. Carrie to place ad in newspaper.

Wells-proposal was emailed to Mark Bradshaw, Russ to reach out. At the time of meeting, Mr. Bradshaw has not responded to the emailed proposal and has not returned calls

Community Park/Playground Committee-will meet in the next couple of weeks; there is money to purchase trees for shade and equipment for smaller/younger kids. Robbie worked on brush that surrounded the fenced in park and thinks it could be a good walking trail.

Streetscape-planning commission to address streetscape idea

Big Spring (tree issue and fix)-Robbie to look at the trees and plants that are behind the wall, he feels the best way to rid that area of the unwanted trees is to cut down and squirt with some type of deterrent for growth. Russ is in contact with a local company that will repair/restore the wall of the Big Spring.

New Business

RSVP for MML September Dinner-Carrie will get head count for payment this Wednesday.

Antietam Cable-Mia motioned to have Antietam to provide internet services to the town's residents, Ed seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Motion to adjourn by Joe, Jake seconded, all were in favor, meeting ended 8:08 pm, next meeting scheduled for October 3rd most of this meeting will be set aside for contract prep work.

