



Sharpsburg Town Crier

William and Melva Ryan Edition



Volume 31

July 2023

Number 7



A Memory and a Mystery: Robert H. Ives, Jr. and St. Paul's Episcopal Church

St. Paul's Episcopal Church served as a field hospital and had to be rebuilt after the damage it endured during and after the Battle of Antietam. (The resurrection of St. Paul's is a dramatic narrative all by itself.) The replacement took over a decade to complete and one of the inherited jewels of the project are the stained glass¹ windows that appear to have been installed in the mid/late 1870s. These windows are themed "The Beatitudes" and the specific window of interest is "Blessed are the Meek" on the east window facing Main Street.

Note in the photo the memorial text at the bottom, "In Memory of Robert H Ives Sept 27th AD 1862". This man died ten days after the Battle. It was implausible to me that this could have been a coincidence. Was he a parishioner who was wounded in the town's artillery bombardment and later died? Was it simply a temporal coincidence? But no, these turn out not to be the case and gives us a glimpse into one of the remarkable stories joining together St. Paul's, Sharpsburg, Providence (RI), the Army of the Potomac, the Battle, and cost of war.



Robert H. Ives, Jr.

Robert H. Ives, Jr. was not a St. Paul's congregant; he was not even a town resident. Before September 17, 1862, he had never set foot here and probably never heard of the place until he approached it with the US Army Ninth Corp that morning...but I get ahead of myself.

Born April 3, 1837, Robert, Jr. was born to a prominent Providence, RI merchant family. He was educated at Providence's Brown University and had done the "European Tour" twice by age 25. He was employed as part of the family merchant business, Brown & Ives. The family was prominent in St. Stephens Episcopal Church in Providence and Rhode Island politics.

Significantly, he was part of the Providence Horse Guards, a state militia, which provided him with military experience. It was through the state governor that he re-

ceived a commission to the rank of U. S. Army Lieutenant, August 19, 1862. At that moment, the Army of the Potomac was still slogging and dragging itself back to Washington after the failed attempt to end the war in the 1862 Peninsular Campaign. The Second Battle of Manassas would be fought about a week later.

Our young man was determined to be part of these events and arrived on the Civil War stage at a time of great chaos, recovery, re-arming, and restructuring. Worse was coming.

Hale was assigned to General Isaac Rodman's Third Division (Ninth Corps) as staff officer to the general and was ordered to Washington to join the Division. General Robert E. Lee began the Confederate invasion of Maryland on September 4 and Robert H. Ives joined Rodman's Division on September 6. The next day, the Division, and the entire Army of the Potomac², was in careful westward pursuit of the Confederate forces. Ninth Corp fought fiercely at the Battle of South Mountain and entered Great Valley just as Robert Lee decided to stand and fight on the high ground between Antietam Creek and Potomac River, the Sharpsburg Ridges.

The morning of the battle, Hale and Ninth Corp found themselves on the east side of the Antietam and ordered to discover the local ford (Snively's Ford), cross the creek, and advance west up on the Confederate right (the high ground above the modern day winery). There they encountered hellish Rebel small arms and artillery fire, made worse by the arrival in that very moment of A.P. Hill's division from Harper's Ferry. General Rodman was wounded and died three days later. As staff officer, Hale may have witnessed this.

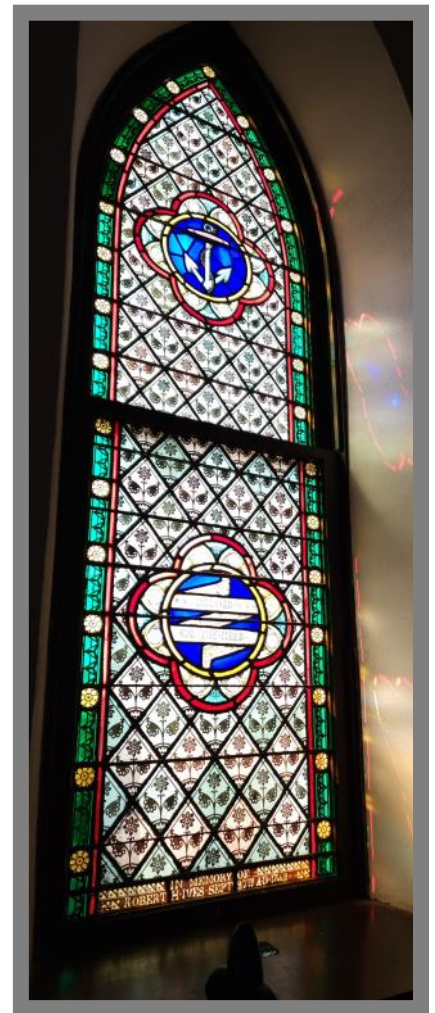
A projectile, likely an artillery fragment, passed through and killed Hale's horse and continued through the young man's right thigh, removing flesh and exposing the femur. He remained in the heat, the dry, and the dust on the field until the next day after which he was removed to a "field hospital", its location unknown.

On being informed of his son's wounding, Hale, Sr. immediately rushed from Providence to Sharpsburg to care for his son. He decided to take his son back to Providence to recover. They got as far as Hagerstown where Hale, Jr. died in a private residence on September 27. His Civil War lasted five weeks.

Which brings us back to St. Paul's windows and the remaining mystery. Did the Ives family donate the memorial window because Hale, Jr. was treated there? Did they donate it because they wished to remember their son in a fellow Episcopal Church? Both? Something else? Church records are silent. We simply do not know.

Rest assured though, if the Editor ever discovers the facts and closes this circle, it will appear in the Crier!

(Editor's Note: One of the guidelines I try to follow is to avoid personal attachment to a story. It's not about me. I mean really, who am I, Hunter S. Thompson!? This story, however, reflects a puzzle that has simmered in my mind for 62 years. Who IS that man memorialized in



Blessed Are the Meek

one of St. Paul's stained glass windows? In my early 20's, I looked at it and wondered, and even invented a (completely wrong) explanation. Then life happened; moving, marriage, career, family. Retirement provides time to dig deeper into such things. So it goes. Many thanks to my "cousin in law" Mr. Gene Walkley who found an internet reference early in this journey. Thanks also to the author Mr. Darin Wipperman for his deep research into this young man's life. Mr. Wipperman recently gave the lecture, " 'His Example Will Not be Lost': The 30-Day Civil War of Robert Hale Ives, Jr." at the Jacob Rohrbach Inn lecture series.)

- Editor

¹ - Technically, they are "stencil" windows with stained glass details.

² - The Army of the Potomac in that moment is thought to have been the largest armed force in the Western Hemisphere.

From the Mayor and Council

Mayor's Message: Sharpsburg Historical Park

Our website invites people to "Come discover the nostalgia and history that 705 people call home". Of course, a large piece of that history is the Civil War Battle of Sharpsburg (Antietam). The citizens of Sharpsburg gave over their homes, churches, and barns for triage and hospital operations. The sense of community shared by the people of Sharpsburg provided the strength to overcome the devastation caused by the battle and to rebuild the town. That same sense of community has kept Sharpsburg looking very much as it did in the 1800s. A few modern-day conveniences have been added but have been carefully planned out so as not to interfere with the historical nature of the town. Our heritage is not a commodity to be exploited.



Sharpsburg's history is much older than the American Civil War. Few today are aware that many local men served in both the American revolution and the War of 1812. Men from Sharpsburg even played a role in what is arguably what is arguably the founding of the United States Army. The Cumberland and Shenandoah Valleys were the bread baskets of North America in the late 1700s. Horse drawn wagons carried untold tons of wheat and flour east from local farms and mills. Main Street bore the name "The Great Philadelphia Wagon Road". Many of the well-preserved houses in Sharpsburg were owned by local farmers establishing a strong connection between the Town of Sharpsburg and the surrounding fields, farms, and farmhouses.



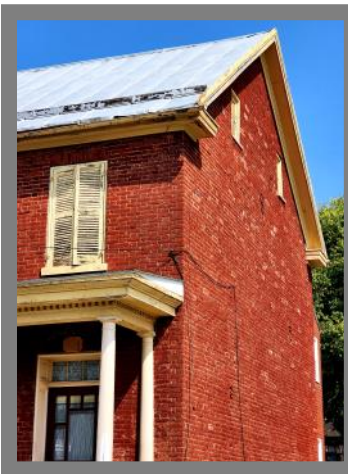
The Town of Sharpsburg has embarked on a project to integrate our Civil war history with Town history in what we are calling the Sharpsburg Historical Park. We have partnered with the County Project Open Space program, with Maryland Heritage Area Authority, and Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area organizations. We have been fortunate to obtain 90% of the construction costs via grants. We have also had broad participation of local citizens, religious and historical

groups who engaged and worked diligently during the design phase.

Although history of the Sharpsburg area is a primary focus of the park, the design includes shaded open space with benches to enjoy your Nutters ice cream, natural areas, a small amphitheater for local programs such as a film night provided by the local library and a walkway linking to the Big Spring alley providing approximately a half mile walking loop from the town square. As you are walking to the south visitors will be informed of Tolson's Chapel and School, The Big Spring and Branch and the Antietam Creek. It looks like construction will begin early 2024. For the biggest project the town has ever tackled to be successful we will need your commitment, help and support going forward.

- Mayor Russ Weaver

The Boyer House: County Commissioners Support Purchase



and preserve the historic Boyer "War Wounds" House, a unique and significant historical structure located in Sharpsburg that still exhibits noticeable damage from the Battle of Antietam.

The request was approved unanimously by the Commissioners, and represents a great collaborative effort between county, municipal and private entities to preserve what is certain to

become one of the most significant Civil War era structures in Washington County!



L to R: Mr. Dan Spedden, President of the Hagerstown/Washington County Convention and Visitors Bureau, Mr. Dennis Frye, Co-Founder and Vice President of Save Historic Antietam Foundation, Mayor Russ Weaver, and Vice-Mayor Jacob Martz

My sincerest thanks to County Commissioner President John Barr, Vice President Jeff Cline, Commissioners Randy Wagner, Wayne Keefer and Derek Harvey for their unwavering support of this important preservation initiative, as well as County officials Susan Buchanan and Dan Spedden for all of their assistance and guidance in bringing it to fruition.

- Vice Mayor Jacob Martz

Founder's Day 2023

Mr. Ed Beeler, Executive Director of the Sharpsburg Museum provided the text of this speech read at the Founder's Day ceremony in Mountain View Cemetery. He was a bit under the weather that day and this was read by Ms. Bea Gregg, Museum President.

"Joseph Chapline was born September 5th 1707, on the "Ye Forrest Plantation" in Queen Anne Parish, Prince George's County, MD. He died 1769 on his homestead 2 ½ miles from Sharpsburg, (then) Frederick County, MD. He was buried at his family burial grounds but was removed in 1890's to Mountain View Cemetery.

"Like his father he was a planter as was his grandfathers for the previous two generations. Each one serving his country in many ways. Joseph himself served in many ways, as frontiersman, planter, landholder, investor, Cap-

tain in the French and Indian War, lawyer, Maryland Assemblyman, Justice of the Peace, and Founder of the town of Sharpsburg, Maryland. His hard work in defending the area of what is now Washington County, MD contributed to making this county, what it is today.

“He married Ruhamah Williams, daughter of the Rev. William Willams and Sarah James of the country of Wales.

“They had 11 children: William Willams, Deborah who married Alexander Thompson, Joseph Jr. married Mary Ann Ferguson, James married Priscilla Willams, Ruhamah married John Thompson, Sarah, Jeremiah married Elizabeth Nourse, Jane, and Theodosia married Dr. Nathan Hays.



L to R: Sara and her daughters, Ms. Bea Gregg, Alex Gregg, Mr. Ed Beeler, Max Greg, Vice Mayor Jacob Martz, Mr. Jesse Rogers, Commissioner Jeff Kline, Ms. Ava Gift, and the Rev. Rick Bishop and wife Lori.

“The Chapline Family can best be described as having adventure in their hearts and daring in their souls. They were a military family as evidenced by the numerous generations that answered the call of their allegiance. They were a family of the law with many generations of lawyers, Justices and Judges, and also Doctors and authors.

“Through the generations, the Chapline family were hard working people, who labored to achieve their goals and futures of

their families but also of the country that they loved and defended.

“So we come here today, during our 260th Celebration of our town, to honor our founder, Captain Joseph Chapline Sr.

“Through all the recorded records found on this great family, the Motto on the Chapline Coat-of-Arms, says it all: “Labor Ominia Vincit”, which means “Labor Conquers Everything”.

“Thank You”

- Ed Beeler

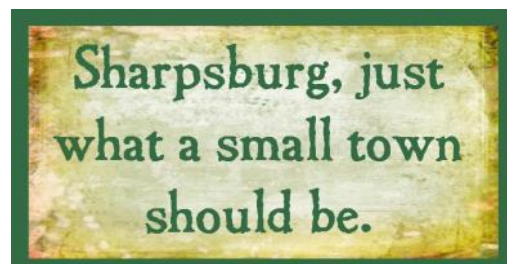
Notice of Public Hearing

Mr. Tim Lung, County Zoning Administrator, announces a Notice of Public Hearing at Town Hall August 22 at 7PM. For more details, see the document on page 19.

Deputy Tracey Peyton Retires

Mayor Russ Weaver and Council give County Deputy Tracey Peyton a farewell recognition. He’s set to retire at the end of July and we will miss him and his service. We also wish him a happy retirement. His replacement is Deputy Dakota Watkins. Look in next month’s Crier for a photo and introduction.

- Town Hall



County Commissioner Mr. Jeff Cline Named Honorary Mayor

Mayor Russ Weaver and the Town Council appreciate all that County Commissioner Jeff Cline does for Sharpsburg. He was awarded a citation making him Honorary Mayor of Sharpsburg. Our town thanks Jeff for all his efforts on our behalf.

- Town Hall



Museum Artifact of the Month

This iron eagle, symbolic of the Union, is thought to have graced the top of the flagpole in town Square at the time of the Civil War. Local legend declares it was hidden upon the approach of secessionist Rebel forces, lest they pull down this mark of loyalty to the Republic.

- Editor



About the Town

Great Kids Doing Wonderful Things!

Earlier this month a group of local girls held a bake sale on Town Square to collect donations for St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital. They acted completely on their own and even baked all goodies. They raised \$383. One of the girls is Miss Abigail Rose whose father's business matched that amount. The Town donated \$100 bringing the total to \$866.



We are fortunate to have such young people among us. (We have photos of all the cheerful girls that day, but sadly could not get permission from all their parents to post them.)

- Carrie Estell

Civil War Lecture Series Reminder

Mr. Chris Vincent reminds us that the Civil War Lecture Series at the Rohrbach Inn is only half finished for the year. Check out the poster on page **18** and the Wednesday entries on the Community Calendar.

- Editor



Hagerstown Model Railroad Museum Open for Visitors



Hagerstown Model Railroad Museum, Inc. at Antietam Station announces two dates for visitors. Drop in Saturday, August 19 and September 16 from 11 AM to 2 PM. Admission is always free, but donations are gladly accepted. We have displays for the family and also some wooden toy trains for the children to play with. You can check out their website at <http://www.antietamstation.com> or on Facebook at "Antietam Station". They are located at 17230 Shepherdstown Pike Sharpsburg, MD 21782. 301-606-6302 for inquiries or 301-800-9829 to leave a message.

- Editor

Community Calendar

Week of August 1 Anytime the Library's Open: **Tween and Teens!** (Stop in and make a friendship bracelet or paint a kindness rock to leave for someone to find) Sharpsburg Library
301-432-8825

August 2 at 1PM: **Homeschool End of Summer Party** (Turn in your bingo card for prizes, paint a kindness rock to leave for someone to find and have some party snacks!) Sharpsburg Library
301-432-8825

August 2 at 7AM: **Kevin Pawlak and Jon-Erik Gilot, "John Brown's Raid: Harpers Ferry and the Coming of the American Civil War, October 16-18, 1859"**

Jacob Rohrbach Inn
<https://www.facebook.com/JacobRohrbachInn>

August 3 at 3:30PM: **Special Story Times, Puppet Show and Book-mobile Stop**

Sharpsburg Library
301-432-8825

August 5 at 2PM: **Brigades of Antietam Series, Brad Gottfried – Brigades of Richard Anderson's Division**

Pry House Barn, 18906 Shepherdstown Pike, Keedysville, MD 21756
president@antietaminstitute.org

August 5 from 9:30AM to 11:30AM: **Come All Who Are Thirsty Veterans Group Quarterly Meeting**

Burnside First Church of God
3904 Mills Road, Sharpsburg
comeallwhoarethirsty.org (or go to their Facebook page)

August 6 at 6PM: Town Council Meeting

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

August 9 at 7PM: **Brad Gottfried, "The Antietam Paintings of James Hope"**

Jacob Rohrbach Inn
<https://www.facebook.com/JacobRohrbachInn>

August 12: **Antique Exhibit**

St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 209 W.
Main Street
Sharpsburg Museum of History
301-800-6877 / Loveshisto-
ry.1866@gmail.com

August 16 at 7PM: **Sarah Kay
Bierle, "John Pelham: Trained at
West Point but Aiming Artillery
for the Confederacy"**

Jacob Rohrbach Inn
[https://www.facebook.com/
JacobRohrbachInn](https://www.facebook.com/JacobRohrbachInn)

August 19 from 11 AM to 2 PM
**Hagerstown Model Railroad Mu-
seum Visitation**

17230 Shepherdstown Pike
301-606-6302 / 301-800-9829

August 22 at 7PM: **Notice of Pub-
lic Hearing** See page 19

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

Week of August 22 Anytime the Li-
brary's Open: **Puzzle Pin**

(Stop in and make a decorative pin
out of colorful puzzle
pieces. For tweens and up!)
Sharpsburg Library
301-432-8825

August 23 at 7PM: " **'A Perfect
Purgatory': Two Generals' jour-
neys from Antietam Creek to the
Trans-Mississippi**"

Jacob Rohrbach Inn
[https://www.facebook.com/
JacobRohrbachInn](https://www.facebook.com/JacobRohrbachInn)

August 24 at 3:30PM: **End of Sum-
mer Reading Club Party**

Sharpsburg Library
301-432-8825

August 30 at 7PM: **John Schildt,
"The Life Henry Kyd Douglas"**

Jacob Rohrbach Inn
[https://www.facebook.com/
JacobRohrbachInn](https://www.facebook.com/JacobRohrbachInn)

September 2 at 2PM: **Brigades of
Antietam Series, Lucas Cade –
Alfred Colquitt's Brigade**

Pry House Barn, 18906 Shepherd-
stown Pike, Keedysville, MD 21756
president@antietaminstitute.org

September 15-16: **Antietam Anni-
versary Weekend, Exhibits,
Sharpsburg Rifle Reunion, and
Sharpsburg Citizens During and
After the Battle of Antietam**

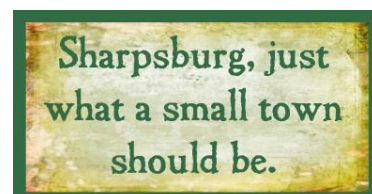
Sharpsburg Museum of History
Sharpsburg Town Hall
301-800-6877 / Loveshisto-
ry.1866@gmail.com

September 16 at 2PM: **Brigades of
Antietam Series, Laura Marfut –
Truman Seymour's Brigade**

Pry House Barn, 18906 Shepherd-
stown Pike, Keedysville, MD 21756
president@antietaminstitute.org

September 16 from 11 AM to 2 PM
**Hagerstown Model Railroad Mu-
seum Visitation**

17230 Shepherdstown Pike
301-606-6302 / 301-800-9829



October 7 at 2PM: **Brigades of Antietam Series, Jim Smith – Max Weber’s Brigade**

Pry House Barn, 18906 Shepherdstown Pike, Keedysville, MD 21756
president@antietaminstitute.org

October 7 Starting at 9AM: **Sharpsburg Days**

Various Venues, Stay Tuned
Town of Sharpsburg
<https://www.facebook.com/TheTownOfSharpsburg>
<https://sharpsburgmd.com/>
301-432-4428

October 14: **Museum’s Sixth Anniversary – Exhibit/Public Celebration for Volunteers**

Sharpsburg Museum of History
Sharpsburg Town Hall
301-800-6877 / Loveshistory.1866@gmail.com

October 21 at 12Noon: **Crab Feed**

Sharpsburg Volunteer Fire Company
Cochran’s Auction Complex
433-398-4510 / sharpsburgvfc@gmail.com

October 21 at 2PM: **Brigades of Antietam Series, Marty Pritchett – George Gordon’s Brigade**

Pry House Barn, 18906 Shepherdstown Pike, Keedysville, MD 21756
president@antietaminstitute.org

November 11 at the Eleventh Hour: **Veterans Day Wreath Laying**

Town Square
Town of Sharpsburg
<https://www.facebook.com/TheTownOfSharpsburg>
<https://sharpsburgmd.com/>
301-432-4428

November 18 from 10AM to 2PM:

Native American Artifacts

Sharpsburg Museum of History
Sharpsburg Town Hall
301-800-6877 / Loveshistory.1866@gmail.com

November 18 – **Sharpsburg Rifle Reunion**

Sharpsburg Museum of History
Sharpsburg Town Hall
301-800-6877 / Loveshistory.1866@gmail.com

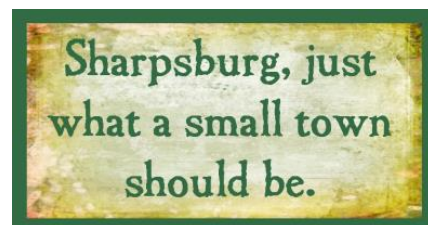
December 1 at 7PM: **Sharpsburg Christmas Tree Lighting**

Town Square
Town of Sharpsburg
<https://www.facebook.com/TheTownOfSharpsburg>
<https://sharpsburgmd.com/>
301-432-4428

December 16 (time to be determined): **Wreaths Across America: Antietam National Cemetery**

Town of Sharpsburg
<https://www.facebook.com/TheTownOfSharpsburg>
<https://sharpsburgmd.com/>
301-432-4428

See poster on Page 18



Recurring Events

Anytime the Library's Open: **Sign up for the Summer Reading Club.**

Birth to Adult. Earn prizes for reading!

Sharpsburg Library
301-432-8825

April through October, First Saturdays, Noon to 4PM: **Tolson's Chapel and School Open House**

111 E. High St., Sharpsburg

Friends of Tolson's Chapel

Contact: tolsons.chapel@gmail.com

Website: www.tolsonschapel.org

Fourth Wednesday of the Month from 11AM to 1PM: **Community Action Council Assistance**

Sharpsburg Volunteer Fire Company Annex

301-791-4161

First and Third Sundays, April through October from 10AM to 2PM:

Farmer's Market

Battleview Market Property

Twilight Homestead LLC

twilighthomesteadllc@gmail.com

Third Wednesdays of the Month from 10AM to 11:30AM: **Sharpsburg Writers Club**

(For details and location, please contact Ms. Heidi Vertrees by personal message)

Any Time the Library's Open: **Art of the Month**

(Each month a different art form will be displayed along with books pertaining to that art.)

Sharpsburg Library
301-432-8825

First Wednesdays of the month at 1PM Adults: **Book Share**

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**

Sharpsburg Library

301-432-8825

Second Thursdays every month, **Lion'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 starting September 25)

Burnside First Church of God

3904 Mills Rd, Sharpsburg

Sharpsburg Bible Church

5134 General Stuart Court, Sharpsburg
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
Fax: 301-432-8990
<https://sharpsburgmd.com/>
townofsharpsburg@comcast.net
<https://www.facebook.com/TheTownOfSharpsburg>
Zoning Administrator-Tim Lung
Sharpsburg.md.zoning@gmail.com

msa 7/26/23 Ver1.0

ATTACHMENTS:

Mayor & Council of Sharpsburg

Meeting Minutes DRAFT

Monday, July 10, 2023

6 PM

Call meeting to order and pledge-Washington County Commissioner led the pledge, there was a moment of silence for two Sharpsburg residents who recently passed away, (Dallas Churchey and Peg McGraw)

In attendance: Cody Swope, Jeff Cline, Eric Jacobs, Perry Jamieson, Tracey Peyton, Dakota Watkins, Chris Vincent, Jen Bruni, Mia Parsons, Joe Kudla, Jacob Martz, Russ Weaver, Robbie Waters, Ed Beeler and Carrie Estell

Minutes and June expenses approval-June meeting minutes were approved; Robbie motioned and Ed seconded, all were in favor. There was some confusion of the June's financial report-the report was reviewed and will be voted on at the next mayor and council meeting in August.

Sharpsburg Appreciates Jeff Cline-Russ presented Jeff Cline with a citation, shirt and lapel pin in recognition of this commitment and support for everything Sharpsburg.

Tracey Peyton & new deputy -Deputy Peyton will be retiring at the end of the month and Russ acknowledged his service with a card of appreciation. Deputy Peyton introduced his replacement, Deputy Watkins. D. Watkins introduced himself and looks forward to getting to know the town's residents and council.

Public Comments-none

Emergency Discussion Panel

Councilman Kudla summarized the council's need to know what needs to happen when a potential emergency occurs. Joe specifically discussed the local response of some white powder/pollen looking substance that came from the sky months ago.

Representative from Washington County Emergency Services-Eric Jacobs-Mr. Jacobs highlighted his organization's services with specifics regarding the procedures of a 911 dispatch call. Questions the operator asks, and their protocols to designate which agency is to be part of the response team. Sharpsburg Fire Department is almost the first agency to address any issues in the town; the county's hazmat department has units that can detect many substances and Mr. Jacobs praised the County Commissioners for they assisted with this unit's detection system. Calling 911 was the best solution to any issue. As far as sharing with the public any information, the county's PR department sends out information on social media and part of an email system. The town's fire department captain and the duty officer are the point people.

Emergency Management Specialist Cody Swope-Mr. Swope shared that the Emergency Management Department is similar to FEMA but on the local level. His agency emails weather hazards, air quality updates, heating/cooling center information and any type of disaster is shared with on the state level to the governor. They preplan for the known and unknown and try to be proactive. Their programs include public education, emergency kits and he also discussed the county's Hazardous Mitigation Plan. At this time, the plan was sent to the state and the next step is to FEMA and then municipalities can be granted funding based on the needs

of a particular area's hazards.

Tim Lung, Zoning Administrator (via ZOOM-critical items only)

BZA held a public hearing June 27 for the Short-Term Rental Special Exception request for the property at 204 E. Main Street. Citizens testified both in opposition and support of the request. The Planning Commission recommended denial of the request because the owner does not reside in the dwelling. The BZA found that the owner did not sufficiently prove she "resides in the dwelling" and denied the request. The BZA also ruled that the owner may re-apply once she provides adequate proof of residency and would waive the application fee.

Had a pre-application phone meeting with MDE to discuss permitting requirements for the Big Spring wall restoration project. An MDE waterway construction permit will be required. I will be preparing the application. There may be restrictions on what time of year the work may occur based on the review by MDE. The review process generally takes 30-45 days depending on the extent of agency review required. My goal is to have the application filed before the end of the month. County and soil conservation confirmed there was no need for permitting. MDE requires a permit and there are specific times of the year to work on waterways. The end of summer/fall projected date for this project is ideal. Due to the historic nature of this town owned property, the fix of the wall/spring will move forward, grant money is still expected to come through.

Followed up on several tall grass/weed complaints.

The trees have been trimmed on the property at 120 Church St. to improve sight distance at the intersection of Church and Chaplin.

The Planning Commission meet to discuss and approved the 2022 annual report required by the Md. Dept of Planning. The report has been sent to MDP.

Permits have been issued for a new business at 100 E. Main st. Candlelight Soap Company, and a permit for a pool on property on E. Antietam St.

First permit was issued for a temporary container (roll-off dumpster) for a property on E. Main Street

Mayor's Report-organizational announcement/discussion

Projects

Wells6/10/2023 – Agreement signed by County and Town. MDE requirements gathered and bid package being prepared. Look to go to bid later this month.

Town Hall6/10/2023 – Still having serious plumbing issues. Solution on hold pending recommendations from John

Community Park6/10/2023 – New equipment expected this month. Seeking confirmation.

Historic/Pocket Park6/10/2023 – received for word from POS 4400K project was approved. FSA is told to finish engineering work and the Wayside exhibit workshop will be scheduled. Develop a "Wayside Exhibit Proposal" which identifies for each wayside display the topic, theme, location, base style, direction of view, and preliminary list of proposed graphics, images, artwork, or maps.

Big Spring 6/10/2023 - Waiting funding announcement on July 13. Fencing is completed

Boyer House 6/10/2023 – Expect County funding to be approved July 25th. MHCD grant application in for funds to clean up lot and provide stabilization maintenance to property submitted.

Streets & General Maintenance 6/10/2023 - List of projects for rest of FY2022 provided by Joe to be worked off (see Joes report)

Planning 6/10/2023 - Time to kick off comprehensive. Looking for a resource to help. Be actively integrated into and critiquing the County comprehensive plan. Hold session to improve working knowledge of County GIS tools.

Council reports (written reports, need for: financial approval, council input or for council to know)

Ed Beeler-Attendance for June: 97, two new members of SMH, Museum is now a Blue Star Museum. Donations: two plastic bags of pictures and papers from the Boyer House, Founder's Day- had 32 people with one Chapline Descendent. We will be open Friday and Saturday of Battlefield Anniversary weekend in September.

Robbie Waters-Stump removal at the Big Spring for fence install was done, while the grinder was rented, we got rid of some stumps at the pond as well. Playground prep for equipment that is slated for delivery end of July.

Jacob Martz-Attended the grand opening of the Ritchie History Museum at Historic Fort Ritchie in Cascade, MD

Conducted an interview with a reporter from the Herald Mail regarding Jack Myers' 100th birthday.

Gave a tour of Boyer house to representatives from Preservation MD & the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD)

Initiated application process with Suzanne Grobbel for \$250,000 grant from DHC

Joe Kudla-Culvert ownership 104 Church

Signs for the trucks in town-wording and editing will be done to make it easier to understand

Drawings for the intersection/update on the bridge by spring

Contact Linda Puffenberger about the cleaning of walls and placement of the fireman sign

MOU with Butch to address ownership and responsibility of culverts, bridges and such in town

The wall that was recently repaired was damaged again, this occurred at 216 East Main, Carrie will reach out to Deputy Peyton to request a police report to help with getting repairs done correctly by the driver's insurance company.

Joe shared with council a speed monitor and council agreed that this would be a good deterrent to speeding. The cost is around 8k and there's an option for recording that would be very useful. Joe will reach out to the company to check for pricing of this unit. Mia asked about possible theft of the unit; utilizing a chain could be a solution. Joe will have the price for the unit with recording option ready to present to council for August's meeting.

Mia Parsons-

Replacement of Main St. tree hit and removed by tractor-this should be replaced by the person responsible for the accident. Russ mentioned that the fence was already fixed and that the tree will be replaced as well; planting of a new tree similar to size and variety can be done this fall. Amber maple was the tree that was damaged; there was on police report but Rick and Melody Canfield will do the right thing and once the planting gets closer, someone will reach out to the Canfields.

Recognition of citizens volunteering to water trees-Mia wanted to thank the volunteers for their efforts in watering the new trees, this will be an ongoing task; Mia has a great group of folks and will reward their efforts. Carrie will purchase gift cards and there will be a mention in the Town Crier.

Update from Planning-Planning Commission will begin meeting monthly as the comprehensive plan needs revision/update. The monthly meeting will start in September and other issues can be addressed/discussed as well.

Discussion of potential development of approx. 17 acres on farm adjacent to town and implications (stormwater etc.). Tim emailed the deeds and he was confident that development would not occur after a brief read of the document, he stated that the area of land in question is one of the most in protected in the county. Portions of the larger land is a priority preservation area, there are several large lots and there are no provisions to divide into lots. Carrie shared this document with Mia and she, in turn, will share some of her findings with Tim. There was lots of discussion on zoning and the rural business zoning area, Green Hills Farms was also discussed and Jeff Cline mentioned that the county's proposed 10-year comprehensive plans will be open for public review/comment soon.

Community Partners

Officer Tracey Peyton-checks- Antietam Station-7, Park-12, school-7, little league-11. Six hrs. foot patrol
1 trespassing comp, road hazard found, assisted WVSP with driver contact, assisted WCSO w/intoxication test & assisted WCSO w/911 call just outside of town

Chris Vincent-Antietam Advisory board- Battlefield Advisory Committee, met on Wednesday, June 14, 2023.

Members of the committee introduced themselves to Acting Superintendent Corey Wolfersberger. Corey will serve as the acting Superintendent until a new one is selected. The position has not yet been announced on USA Jobs.

The focus of this quarterly meeting was to tour the Visitor Center as it is reaching renovation completion. Entering the lobby through the larger vestibule, the large windows provide natural light, and the overhead lights automatically adjust based on the natural light. The visitor contact station has two point-of-sale fee stations and two flat screen monitors for daily park activities and events displayed. A security camera monitor is based at the station to observe all the security cameras that have been installed inside and outside the building. The restrooms are only accessible from the inside with an additional family restroom added. The large lobby in-

cludes access to the stairs to the observation room, stairs to the exhibit area, the bookstore and an elevator that provides access to all three floors. A display wall of nine flat screen monitors will project pictures of the battlefield and interpretive scenes of the battle. There is also a temporary exhibit display case in the lobby to rotate artifacts.

The bookstore has merchandise shelving areas and cabinets throughout the space with reference to the five universal themes that will tie into their products.

The observation room has a compass rose on the floor and a 3D circular map of the area of operations during the Maryland Campaign. There will be an Indigenous people interpretive area in the room as well.

The auditorium includes new lighting, carpeting, and audio-video system.

The staff area includes a small conference room, two offices, office space for rangers on duty and a break area.

The exhibit area leads visitors through the five universal themes of conflict, terror, survival, memory, and freedom with a goal of telling a bigger story than just the details of the battle. This will include display panels, artifacts, and interactive displays.

The final phases of the project include the walks and the parking area. The walkway and curbs are currently being laid. The walks leading up to the Visitor Center will include granite insert stones with the key events of the Civil War leading up to Antietam with sculpture centerpiece for the Battle of Antietam. The walk from that point will be the major events after Antietam until the war ends.

The current projected move in date is July 17. This is when the exhibits and artifacts will go in and the bookstore will start moving merchandise back in. The soft opening will be August 1. This is when the doors will be open to the public and visitor services will begin operating out of the Visitor Center. A rededication ceremony is scheduled for September 8. The temporary modular buildings will be removed in mid-August and that area restored.

The Strategic Plan for 2023 – 2026 is complete and available for the public. The primary intent of this strategic plan is to articulate an overarching vision for Antietam National Battlefield and to create a framework for setting goals and prioritizing work for the next three to four years. Three main goals the plan will focus on is Safety, Preserve and Protect the battlefield, and Visitor Services and Enhancing Visitor Experience.

Other Projects: HPTC continues to work on the preservation project at the Piper farm with the wagon shed roof and at the David R. Miller house on the windows and porch.

The pavement preservation project will begin on Sept. 12. The public can expect delays and closures as all the park roads will be resurfaced.

National Cemetery rehabilitation is part of the FY27 funding but some of the preliminary steps have begun with some tree removal, pruning, and new planting.

The Salute to Independence cannot be held at Antietam National Battlefield in 2023 due to ongoing construction around the Visitor Center. Contractors will be continuing work on the exterior grading, sidewalk and exterior exhibit installation, landscaping, and reseeding into the summer. The project will not be com-

pleted to allow the area to reopen by July. As to the future of holding the Salute to Independence event, the Park recognizes that the Salute to Independence is a beloved community tradition, and as they continue to engage in conversations about the future of this event with the Maryland Symphony Orchestra and other stakeholders, the National Park Service's focus will be on the visitor experience, including safety of the public and protecting the battlefield's natural and cultural resources.

The next meeting is scheduled for Sept. 13th, 2023

Old Business/ACTIONS:

Town Hall Plumbing-After Jake and Robbie met with PlumbingWurx and both agreed to their proposal. Jake sent out an email to vote. Jake, Robbie, Ed and Joe voted yes, Mia did not respond and John voted no. Russ emailed John and offered a few ways to handle. These suggested options were: 1.) Start all over with meetings with Larry & Sons, PlumbingWurx, Willard and any others you wish to engage, or 2.) Meet with PlumbingWurx to validate their proposal, or 3.) Meet with Jake and Robbie and go over their findings from meeting with PlumbingWurx or 4.) Any method you chose. John is not able to attend this meeting or August's meeting.

Awards/celebrations-Jack Myers 100-year birthday & Jeff Cline honorary citizenship-Jack Myers was in France and came home sick and is booked through mid-July. Carrie mailed his shirt with a birthday card. Jeff Cline's shirt and citation are ready for presentation.

Fire House Signage Agreement-there are a few solutions, the first issuance of the sign was agreed to by council as they interpreted the fire house as a government building, but it is not. The fire house sign is not in compliance with the town's zoning ordinance. The town hopes to have the sign at a different location, this will be a fire house sign and the town can use for events.

Sea Container Ordinance No 2023-001 Signatures needed

FY24 budget approval-Russ discussed the budget and the increase in price of the well drilling, there is still marked covid money and the price to drill a well is 77k, the budget has been discussed. Robbie motioned, Joe seconded and all were in favor.

New Business

Wreaths Across America-Organization reached out needing funding. Carrie put their letter on the town's Facebook page and requested that a blurb be done in the Town Crier through the end of the school year.

Robbie motioned for adjournment, Joe seconded, all were in favor, 7:30 pm, next meeting is slated for Monday, August 6th at 6 pm

Civil War Lecture Series ~ August 2023

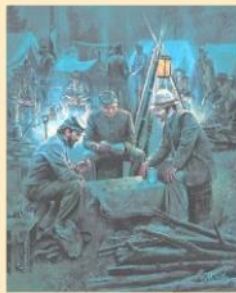
We are half way through the season and have had great presentations by excellent speakers. Join us in August for the last five presentations and a couple more of first-time speakers. Come hear leading historians and Antietam Battlefield Guides as they discuss intriguing topics of the Maryland Campaign of 1862 and the Civil War during our Civil War Summer Lecture Series.

These outdoors programs will be held at the Jacob Rohrbach Inn on Wednesday evenings at **7:00 p.m.** To ensure adequate seating, please bring a chair.

In case of inclement weather, lectures will be held at the Sharpsburg Christ Reformed UCC Church at 117 Main Street. Parking is available on Main and Hall Streets. For updates and a full schedule of presenters & topics check our Facebook page.

We are half way to reaching our donation goal this year of \$500 for the **Save Historic Antietam Foundation**. Each week we raffle a unique book or Civil War print. For only \$5 a ticket, you're get a chance to win the the nightly prize and your ticket is entered into the end of season raffle held on August 30th. **Help us exceed our goal!**

This year's grand prize is this Limited Edition Civil War Print
by Mort Kunstler -
Letter From Home



Support Leathernecks Nation MC, Peleliu Chapter

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA



PLEASE HELP US REMEMBER, HONOR, AND TEACH

Antietam National Battlefield, 302 E Main St, Sharpsburg, MD

Contact us with questions: lnmcpeleliu@gmail.com

**YOUR HELP IS ALSO APPRECIATED TO GATHER
THE WREATHS WE LAY TOGETHER**

Clean up: TBD

SPONSOR A WREATH, VOLUNTEER AND INVITE FRIENDS TO HELP

Sponsor a wreath online at <https://www.wreathscrossamerica.org/>

1. Under Red Sponsor Wreaths Button, Click "Local Sponsorship Group"
2. Choose number of wreaths - Most popular is 5 Wreaths from individuals
3. Type the **group ID: MD0010P** on Select Group to Support line
4. Click the Red Button "Review my Sponsorships"



Town of Sharpsburg
106 East Main Street
Sharpsburg, MD 21782
Phone: 301-432-4428
<http://sharpsburgmd.com/>

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS
AUGUST 22, 2023**

Town Hall, 106 East Main Street, Sharpsburg, MD at 7:00 p.m.

DOCKET NO. BZA-23-002: An appeal was made by Carol Miller for a Special Exception to establish a short-term residential rental (STR) use in an existing owner occupied single family dwelling and, owned by the applicant and located at 204 East Main Street, zoned TR-Town Residential.

Pursuant to the Maryland Open Meetings Law, notice is hereby given that the deliberations of the Board of Zoning Appeals are open to the public. Furthermore, the Board, at its discretion, may render a decision as to some or all of the cases at the hearing described above or at a subsequent hearing, the date and time of which will be announced prior to the conclusion of the public hearing. Individuals requiring special accommodations are requested to contact Carrie Estell, Town Clerk at 301 432 4428 no later than August 15, 2023. Any person desiring a stenographic transcript shall be responsible for supplying a competent stenographer.

Applicants shall have ten (10) minutes in which to present their request and may, upon request to and permission of the Board, receive an additional twenty (20) minutes for their presentation. Following the Applicant's case in chief, other individuals may receive three (3) minutes to testify, except in the circumstance where an individual is representing a group, in which case said individual shall be given eight (8) minutes to testify.

For extraordinary cause, the Board may extend any time period set forth herein, or otherwise modify or suspend these Rules, to uphold the spirit of the Ordinance and to do substantial justice.

Timothy Lung
Zoning Administrator