

Mayor & Council of Sharpsburg
Meeting Agenda
Monday, January 9, 2023
6 PM APPROVED (02/07/2023)

In attendance: Russ Weaver, Jacob Martz, Mia Parsons, Ed Beeler, John Hammond, Chris Vincent, Jen Bruni, Al Mason from DSL, Perry Jamieson and Carrie Estell

I. Call meeting to order and pledge, Carrie Led the pledge a moment of silence was given for the passing of Pete Callas.

II. Minutes and December expenses approval-Jake motioned, Ed seconded, all were in favor.

III. Mayor comments

Wells-County has committed to sharing the costs of digging a new well and we will be obligated to bring our existing well online. Contract negotiation will begin this week with county. We have estimates from at least one well driller. You can view the exchange between commissioners and Town on BOCC website

Town Hall-Sound and camera system installed; desks need to be wired for power waiting on CR Electric

Community Park-Cameras added to provide better coverage of park, Trees and landscape plan pending, Pickle ball and basketball court painting to be completed in spring, bid for replacing fence along high street obtained

Historic Park-Construction estimates provided, bid documentation due, Completed grant proposal for Project Open Space POS

Historic Walls-Working with MDOT to make sure walls are part of their 2023 plan

Big Spring-Seeking contractor to perform prime contracting tasks with Gruber Lattimer as subcontractor. Difficult finding someone experienced and willing to work with Maryland Department of Environment (MDE). Fence proposal obtained

Boyer House-Further action pending engineering review. SHAF has applied for a county grant to purchase house

Streets & General Maintenance-List of projects for rest of FY2022 provided by Joe to be worked off before 7/1/2023, Received estimates to replace fencing along High Street at LL Field. Streets cleaned thanks to Williamsport and RW Properties. Managed our first winter storm event

AVW-AVW has been put on notice for failure to pick up trash on Antietam and Chapline Streets, Carrie will reach out to AVW to get good contact number.

IV. Finance and Budget-focus and execution of projects that are backed by grants, we need to get things accomplished this calendar year.

Public Comments

Chris Vincent asked what type of business will be coming to 100 East Main, (the shop will sell candles and soaps)

Zoning-Tim Lung (only critical items)

- Have contacted the other Municipalities in the County regarding any regulations that they may have for, 5g small cell facilities, sea containers as storage buildings, and yard sales. Have received some responses and working on a compilation of responses.
- Have reached out to the Planning Commission chair to schedule a meeting to discuss various ordinance revision items.
- Continue to compile information regarding local regulation/permitting of small cell 5g facilities, sea containers for storage buildings and yard sales.
- Field meeting held in December with Washington County Public Schools (WCPS) facilities department, the County Storm Water inspector and the complainant regarding the drainage issue from the Sharpsburg Elementary school property. County says the matter is between WCPS and the Town/complainant. WCPS to review the original plans, recalculate the runoff and report back.
- Meet with representatives from Antietam Broadband regarding their project to provide fiber cable service to Town residents. All work will be done above ground with cabling and equipment to be located on existing utility poles. No Town utility permit required.
- Investigated and responded to a complaint regarding work being done to a dwelling along West Chapline Street without permits. County building inspector issued a correction notice and property owner is in the process of applying for the required permits.
- Working with a prospective tenant for the vacant commercial space at 100 E. Main Street in front of Nutter's Ice Cream; Zoning certificate and sign permit required. Tenant hopes to occupy by Feb 1.
- Followed up on a complaint regarding open burning of scrap building materials at a property along E. Main Street. Open burning is regulated by the Maryland Dept of the Environment with delegated authority to the Washington County Heath Dept. Open burning is prohibited closer than 200 ft from a structure. Town Code also prohibits the burning of scrap material. Health Dept to investigate.
- Corresponded with The Maryland Dept of Planning, regional Planner concerning the schedule for the required 10yr update of the Town's Comprehensive Plan. The Plan update is scheduled to be completed and adopted by 2025; however, MDP is flexible. Some items that will need particular attention in the next update will be the "municipal growth element", and the "water resources element". These elements involve some detailed technical analysis. The regional Planner is available to assist, and the Town may want to consider having a consultant prepare these elements.

Council reporting

Mia Parsons—phase two of the tree planting for Main Street will be coming soon. Russ asked about lights on the square and flower boxes like Mercersburg has in their downtown/square area. Railings along culverts near the square were also discussed. There was discussion on if this was allowed, it and Mia will reach out to possible vendors. Half a dozen to a dozen street lights, solar lights with flower baskets. Safety grates and railings for culverts. MDOT stated that the culverts can have railings installed. Joe stated that the railings need to stay on the curb. Gas look alike lamps could be a nice touch.

Joe Kudla—street cleaning was successful and the partnership with Williamsport is a great partner, and this allows the town to get the street cleaned once or two times each year. Joe spoke with Linda to remind that the historic walls be included in their 2023 budget. Update on streetscape refresh.

Jacob Martz—met with a Preservation Maryland and SHAF on estimates for preservation. Still waiting on estimated costs for preservation. SHAF will assist with management if the town needs this service. SHAF requested a letter of support that Jake wrote for a grant from the county; this grant is to pay off the price of the house, it is for \$100,000.00. Robbie winterized the house. January's Memorial Day Parade meeting was cancelled, but the next meeting is set for February 7th at 6 p.m.

Ed Beeler

- Attendance for 2022 – 2380; last year 2021 – 1639; an increase of 741 visitors.
- Ed announced that Dr. Robert Brooks is part of the museum board, he's the secretary and brings lots of knowledge to the group.
- Starting in January SMH volunteers will be cataloging artifacts in SMH
- SMH staff will begin to design new displays, our goal is to reopen in March with new displays
- SMH handed over Miss Sharpsburg and Sharpsburg Days to the newly formed events Committee so they can concentrate on museum related matters. I sent a letter out requesting any ideas from the other groups in Sharpsburg about activities they would have in celebration of our 260th so far only one answered.
- SMH 2023 Schedule of Events/260th Anniversary of Sharpsburg
 - January-Closed for Revamping of Museum – Work Project
 - February-Black History Month Exhibit with Tolson's and SMH all month – Exhibit
 - March 11th Spring Metal Detecting Expo Event
 - April 22nd Youth Day at the Museum –Activity
 - May 13th 2 p.m. Tom Clemmons – Civil War –Event & May 27th Sharpsburg Memorial Day Parade & Wreath laying –Public relations
 - June 10th Women of Sharpsburg Exhibit
 - July 8th Sharpsburg's 260th Anniversary Open House, (quilts, weaving, spinning event)
 - August 12th Antique Road Show – Activity
 - September 15th & 16th Antietam Anniversary Weekend-Sharpsburg Citizens during Antietam Exhibit
 - October 14th SMH 6th Anniversary – Exhibit for Public/ Celebration for volunteers
 - November 11th Veterans Day wreath laying – Public Relations, November (Date to be determined) Native American Artifacts Exhibit and November 18th Sharpsburg Rifle Reunion Event
 - December 1st Sharpsburg Christmas tree Lighting 7pm. December (Date to be determined) Wreaths Across Antietam National Cemetery Public Relations

All events are subject to change; most will run 9-4 unless otherwise stated.

The museum needs a memorandum of understanding as to who owns the artifacts.

Community Partners

- **Officer Tracey Peyton (submitted electronically)**
 - Checks Park-7, Antietam Train Museum-7, school-5, LL field-2
 - 1 hour traffic enforcement & 1 hour foot patrol
 - In town for tree lighting and celebration
 - Assisted county shifts by running intoximeter test on DUI arrest, handled vehicle crash on Mt Lock Hill during ice event, and check well-being on vulnerable adult.
 - When cyber event disabled county computers, the units in the cruisers were also affected by being unable to access the network. Time spent at patrol having the IT dept. apply temp fixes.
 - Short schedule in Dec for "use or lose" time.
 - Fees on shed damage are still needed from the two youngsters. Carrie will work with the parents and call each month; she will reach out to Officer Peyton to make a call when he's in town.
- **Chris Vincent-Antietam Advisory board**
 - The committee met on Wednesday, December 14, 2022.
 - Superintendent Trail commented that the 160th Battle Anniversary went well, and events were well attended. The Memorial Illumination had to be cancelled due to the wind and rain expected in the weather forecast.
 - The rehabilitation project of the Visitor's Center continues moving forward. Of course, the completion date has delayed due to sidewalk grades being off. Most likely the opening will be in the spring. The interior work in being completed in the store, lobby and theater. Exhibits will be going in in January and the solar panels getting installed.

- Filming for the new orientation film, which will be approximately 23 minutes is done. Filming took place throughout the battlefield, in Sharpsburg, and on a farm outside Keedysville. The film is expected to be completed by the end of 2023 with a possible premier showing at the Maryland Theater.
- Other Projects: HPTC continues to work on the preservation project at the Piper farm. The house is done, and they are working on the exterior of the outbuildings. Work has begun at the David R. Miller house on the windows and porch. The trace road at the Burnside Bridge will be resurfaced to make it more accessible for handicap visitors.
- Two major projects this year will be the resurfacing of all the park roads and the National Cemetery rehabilitation which includes tree removal, pruning, and new planting as well as monument cleaning and repair work.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 8th, 2023.

Russ has requested that Chris to research the driving force of who is responsible for the cancellation of the July 4th celebration at the Antietam Battlefield. Biggest concern is the security as the event gets about 10,000 attendees.

Old Business/ACTIONS:

FSA survey/drawings of Church and Antietam for possible resolutions—pros and cons were discussed to get drawings—This would be a drawing of the area with possible fixes to this water problem. The cost of the drawings will be \$3,500.00. Execute/fix the problem will be a very costly project. The drawings are not something that will expire. John spoke about citizens wanting better roads as opposed to a pocket park. Joe discussed the importance of having drawings in hand to assist with projects and have the information for bidding. John suggested grant writer to find monies for the road fix. Specifics on the drawings were discussed. Joe motioned to spend the money for the drawings, Ed seconded, all were in favor. Motion passed

Fire Station donation—\$2,000 has been the basic donated amount for the fire station and EMT, John motioned, Joe seconded, all voted in favor.

Electric car charging station vote (possible area: ballpark Council discussed possible areas for the charging station, members agreed that the limited parking in town and at the ballfield would not be feasible. Each council person voted to not accept the project proposal. The council gave a few highlights of the project, not a lot of parking to be able to feasibly give three spaces away. Near the water tower is we could carve out three spaces. All of council voted against the charging station. John motioned to skip, Joe seconded, all were not in favor of the charging station. Carrie will contact Marc with a thanks but no thanks for the charging station.

Fence bids (Horst Fencing Little League facing Street—\$22,500.00, legally obligated Big Spring \$7,500.00)

Horst was the only company to get back with Carrie

Big Spring fence—we are legally obligated to fence off the area the town owns. Ed motioned, Jake seconded, all is favor.

MDOT—met via Teams mid-December and was presented pictures and alternatives to parking and reducing speeding on Main Street. Joe summarized the solutions for helping the town to increase parking spots, reduce the risk of pedestrian crossing and the traffic off Main to/from Church and onto and off Sharpsburg Pike. Joe also reviewed the state parking violation/requirements. Legal parking was discussed and the markings that MDOT could stripe for the town, there were four different town square solutions to slow traffic and allow pedestrians. There are 128 legal parking spots on Main. Joe reviewed the stipulations of the state road; John mentioned that some parts of Main are not as wide in parts. Lots of discussion on the parking on Main Street. Mia brought up at a previous meeting that alley paving was voted against. Russ asked about an alley, alley discussion needs to be brought up. Survey was going to be done; John said he brought an alley survey. Companies and churches use alleys, John suggested that only residents can use the alley ways and that tickets should be issued for violations. Russ thought that Peyton would not be able to enforce. Russ suggested a public debate/public discussion to get an idea of what the residents would like. Russ missed John's alley report, so he requested it to be resubmitted. Someone to take the initiative to get a proposal together to address the alley issues. Joe showcased three different options for the cross walk to slow traffic and keep pedestrians safe from oncoming cars. Two crosswalk options were also discussed. Slow traffic down and bring pedestrians are more visible, lower curbing and extending the four corners of the square. Joe suggested to have council look at the drawings; Russ suggested to discuss tonight.

The culture of Shepherdstown is different; that town has signs that makes law more prominent. Officer Peyton will be asked to monitor, enforce the crosswalk issue. Failure to yield right of way and concentrate on crosswalk and enforce all state road/parking laws.

Latest Project Open Space application for the pocket park—the estimated cost of the park was close to over \$900,00.00 after teasing out some expense Russ was able to get the final cost to \$400,000.00 which is still a very high cost. Pocket Park is on hold for now, not in favor of spending that kind money. The design is great, but we are not the park service and as a small town cannot put in that kind of money for a park. Russ hopes to get some money from the grant application and once he knows the outcome of the grant application, he will let council know. We may wind up going with the original version of a few benches, a sign, flagpole and maintain the area's landscaping.

New Business

US 250th Anniversary Planning Summit on January 31st Joe and Jake will attend; Carrie will RSVP.

MML January Dinner RSVP—Hagerstown, needed by the Friday—Carrie asked everyone to send in pics as we are hosting in March for a visual slide show.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:50, Next meeting will be Monday, February 6th.

