



Sharpsburg Town Crier

*Max Grim and
Warren Davis Edition*



Volume 32

March 2024

Number 3

The Story of St. Paul's Episcopal Church: It's Really All About The Town , Installment 2

This Installment begins St. Paul's story the day before the battle and ends in our own time.

Just prior to the day of the battle, the Federal artillery attempted to disrupt Confederate formations occupying and moving through the town. The bombardment, directed from an observation station on Red Hill rained down exploding iron all through the town. It created impact damage and set many fires. There is record of St. Paul's being struck by several rounds, but there's no indication of fire.

History had another plan for the church's destruction.

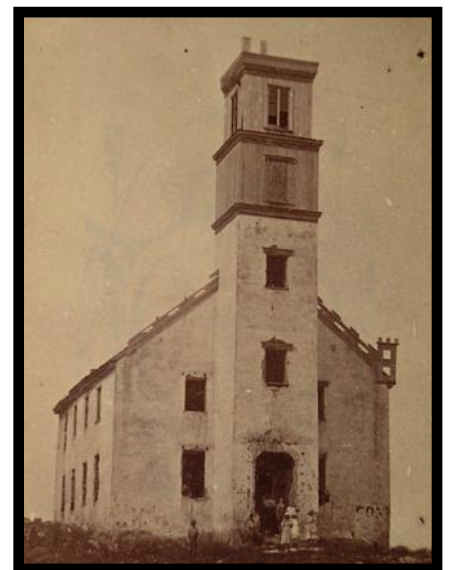
Several days earlier, the church was commandeered as a Confederate field hospital. Related, the secessionist rector, Reverend John Adams was later accused by Federal authorities of allowing access by the Confederate hospital staff and orders were issued to bombard his property, later rescinded. (This incident is part of another Town Crier article, "Casualties of War: The Sad Story of St. Paul's Episcopal Church and Reverend. John Alexander Adams By Alex Rossino" March 2021.)

Remarkably, there is no record of a Sharpsburg resident being killed or wounded. This is more remarkable when you consider the jarring thunder of 50,000 artillery rounds and crackle of three million rifle shots within three miles of town.

It was the occupation of the church for use as a hospital combined with the Federal occupation of the area for several months that ruined the church. You see, every available piece of wood in the area was used as firewood. Generally, the entire region was rendered destitute as first one army then the other used up everything. Every farm animal, bale of hay, pound of flour, fence rail, and jar of honey was taken. Many residents lost all and left the area. St. Paul's doors, furniture, pews, floor, window sashes, and everything wooden was burned for heat and cooking.

Let the people tell this story.

The day after the battle the armies faced each other. Citizen Teresa Kretzer "It was an unearthly quiet after all the uproar of the battle. Citizen Alex Davis "It was a queer thing. You couldn't hear a dog bark nowhere. You couldn't hear no birds whistle nor



St. Paul's no later than 1871. Note the missing shutters, window sashes, door, and doorframe.



Interior View, no later than 1871. Note missing door, windows, window sashes, and floor. There is extensive water damage.

no crows caw.”

Robert Lee departed. Two days after the battle, citizen Maggie Hoffmaster on returning home “The dead lay so thick that the horse would be very careful not to step on the bodies.”

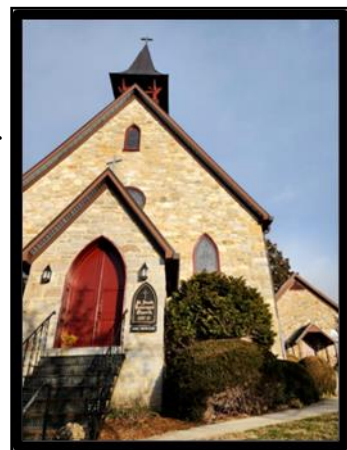
Five days after, William Child, U.S. Army Surgeon, “The days after the battle were a thousand times worse than the day of the battle...the dead appear sickening but they suffer no pain...the poor wounded mutilated soldiers that yet have life and sensation make a most horrid picture”.

December 21, [Three months after the battle and one day after the Federal surgeons left St. Paul’s.] Colonel Charles E. Phelps, Federal Regimental Commander. “[we] Occupied four churches in the town.” [he deployed his unit for the night] “I went with the balance of the Regiment to the remaining one, the Episcopal church. I found every sash taken from the windows. It was littered with dirty rags, bloody bandages, old poultices, refuse lint, and all the offal of a hospital. I slept outside in the church’s graveyard.” Imagine. This man of death, war, and destruction elected to sleep outside in winter with the newly buried Rebel corpses, rather than endure the interior ruin of the church.

Later, others recorded.

Congregant William Blackford, “The Church was entirely ruined for church purposes. We were without a church for 13 years. St. Paul’s almost went to pieces. It was hard to keep members together.” Congregant Robert Grove “It was abused and about ruined so that the church could never be used again for anything.

The Reverend Adams in letters to the Bishop, “The church was made a complete wreck, not by shot and shell but by the soldiers and for use as a hospital.” “My health has been feeble during the winter and spring. Mrs. Adams, too, since the Battle of Antietam.” “Our members having generally suffered great losses without remuneration yet have neither the means nor the heart for rebuilding until confidence and peace are restored to our suffering country. We are thus completely destitute of a place of worship. No sabbath bell invites us to the house of god and no prayer ascends from thence for the blessings on a dying world. The rector whose health remains delicate has to confine his services to his own home .” “Everything around us in the public road is unenclosed and desolate. All characters are daily and nightly passing and it would not be safe, even if my health would permit, to leave home.” Finally, “My health is insufficient for the active duties of this ministry.” With that, the Reverend Adams departs our story; a decade later, he departs this life.



Several years later, the Reverend Henry Ed- St. Paul’s as we see it in our time.



The Reverend Henry Edwards who oversaw the rebuilding of St. Paul's

wards took over St. Paul's congregation, struggling as it was, and together with the congregation, rebuilt the church using the stone from the original. The Reverend Edwards makes an interesting contrast with John Adams. Edwards was rector of St. John's Hagerstown. Depending on the version of the story, he left or was kicked

out of St. John's, a secessionist congregation. The story goes that one fine Sunday during the occupation with the pews filled with Rebel officers the Good Reverend prayed for the President. NOT the President in Richmond, the one in Washington! Later, upon the news of the surrender at Appomattox, the Good Reverend ordered St. John's bells to be pealed. Regardless, the Reverend Edwards oversaw St. Paul's reconstruction and the resurrection of the congregation. The cornerstone was laid in 1871.

Again, in their words:

Congregant Samuel Hebb "It had been my church all my life my father and mother went there. I also went to Sunday School there. The soldiers ruined this church. It was decided that a new church could be built cheaper than to repair the old one. I was active all the time in helping to rebuild the new church. I took my six horse team and hauled lumber from the Rev. Adams farm to Hagerstown and had them made into pews. It had been a great struggle to maintain this church...it was al-

most broken up."

Reverend. Edwards in 1867 "Notwithstanding the great difficulties under which we have labored, there has been an increase in numbers." In 1877, "We have just finished putting a belfry upon the church and the bell¹ was rung for the first call to prayer on the night of Whitsunday ... after an interval of more than 15 years..."

Consider the contrast, Adams describing the wartime destruction "a dying world"; then Edwards, the rebuilding, and the congregation's renewal, "the bell was rung for the first call to prayer on the night of Whitsunday".

Of note in the latter part of the 19th Century are the application for war damage compensation and Consecration by the Diocese of Maryland in 1885. An important change occurred in 1897 when the creation of Antietam Parish legally yoked together the Rector, properties, and congregations of St. Paul's Sharpsburg and St. Mark's Lappans Crossroads. Although rescinded in 1980, there is still a close relationship between these churches.

History is Fickle. What gets recorded and what survives the turmoil of time often leaves us frustrated. Consider the case of Dewey the Gelding at the turn of the 19th and 20th Centuries. By pure accident, we know more about Dewey than many of the church's ministers. A horse was provided to the minister, but it was the time of transition from horse to automobile. We have lots of information about what to do about Dewey. Should he be sold in the Fall at a lower price or in the Spring for a higher price (but have to feed him all Winter)? So it goes.

Again in the 20th Century, the history of St.



The 1955 St. Paul's Choir: Of note is Father Walter McKinley in the top center. There are those in town who remember ALL of these people. Warren Davis, top left) is mentioned in this article. Of especial note are two people still in the congregation, Ms. Carolyn (Rohrer) Shaw, front left, and Ms. Becky (Kretzer) front right.

Paul's largely reflected the town's. For example, electrification occurred in 1911. In 1915, after 50 years from the submission of claim, the Federal Government paid \$3,500 in war damage compensation.

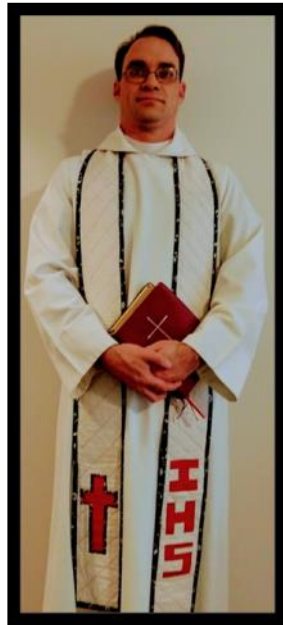
The longest serving minister at St. Paul's was the Reverend Walter B. McKinley, from 1917 to 1957. His tenure is the very essence of a Norman Rockwell painting and well beyond the scope of this article to chronicle. There are those still living who remember him vividly and fondly. He was important in that time as a major congregation builder, especially among the teenagers. His secret was providing everything that brought kids together; hot dog picnics, doughnut parties, fishing trips, camping, and baseball. He served during the Great Depression and World War II and

frustratingly few details of his service in that dramatic time survives². That said, we can get a glimpse of Father McKinley at that time in the January 2024 Town Crier (Warren "Woodpecker" Davis: A Man of This Place, A Family Man, A Community Man, and A Decorated Hero).

St. Paul's history in the last half of the 20th Century is well known to many here in town. Women began to serve on the Vestry³ in 1958. The community hall behind the church was constructed in 1965 and named in honor of Father McKinley. Its presence is largely due to the funding and organizing efforts of the women of the church.

The first woman Senior Warden⁴, Ms. Barbara Bussard was elected in 2006. Barbara is still a stalwart congregant of St. Paul's.

In 2023, the Hall was renovated and its kitchen facility upgraded. The Editor includes the present minister, Father Connor Newlun, as historically significant because he led the congregation through the recent Covid epidemic when access to the church was restricted to levels not experienced since the Civil War.



St. Paul's present Rector, Father Connor Newlun

As with any history, what we know only points to the volumes that we don't.

- Editor

¹ You will remember from the first installment the story of the Chapline Bell.

² The Editor would give his paycheck to find the notes of Father McKinley's first sermon after Pearl Harbor.

³ In the Episcopal Church, the secular business of the church is conducted by a group of congregants elected by the congregation.

⁴ The Senior Warden leads the Vestry in conducting the secular business of the church.

About the Town

Career Day at Sharpsburg Elementary School

Sharpsburg Elementary School offers it's students the opportunity to learn about a wide



Mayor Russ Weaver at Career Day

range of careers and workplaces as part of its curriculum. We thank these people who have recently given their time to offer their experiences to the kids.

Mayor Weaver - Mayor of Sharpsburg, Dr. Johnson – Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Microbiologist, Captain Krehling - U.S. Army, Master Deputy Smith - Washington County Sheriff's Department, Ms. Alvaro & Ms. Hajali - Jefferson Security Bank, Ms. Esther Lowe - Future Farmers of America (FFA Boonsboro H.S.), Ms. Parsons - Integrated Resource Manager - National Parks Service, Mr. Valasquez - Used Car Manager - Frederick Motor Company, Mr. Tierney - Tierney Studio (Graphic Design), Ms. Smith – Nursing

- Submitted by Ms. Carrie Estell

Veterans Inspiring Patriotism (VIP)

Our local nonprofit Veterans group “Come All Who Are Thirsty” (CAWAT) met with some special students in March at Sharpsburg Elementary School for discussion on patriot-



ism and the Pledge of Allegiance. Using maps, we located the U.S. and Maryland then talked of symbols. Some examples were the bald eagle, the Statue of Liberty, and the U.S. and Maryland flags. We practiced saying the Pledge together and colored pages in a booklet, helping to memorize the lines. The students discussed what the words of the Pledge meant to them. Each student received a VIP

package of patriotic items to take home. Any Sharpsburg family interested in a student package may contact us at cawatveterans@gmail.com.

Sponsored by CAWAT's Corporal Ernie Wetterer Pledge Program.

- Mrs. Beth Harris, Co-Founder, CAWAT

Community Calendar

April 1 at 6PM: **Town Council Meeting**

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

April 4 at 1:30PM: **Homeschool Historical Walking Tour of Sharpsburg**

Sharpsburg Library
301-432-8825

April 4 at 6PM: **Winter Spice Club Picnic**

Sharpsburg Park Pavilion, High Street
For Information: Sharpsburg Library
301-432-8825

April 6 from 10AM to 4PM: **Re-Opening, Sharpsburgh Museum of History**

Sharpsburg Town Hall
301-800-6877
Loveshistory.1866@gmail.com

April 7 at 12:30PM: **Meet the Author - Steve Stotelmyer "From Frederick to Sharpsburg: People, Places, and Events of the Maryland Campaign Before Antietam"**
Antietam Creek Vineyards

For Information: president@antietaminstitute.org

April 10 from 12Noon to 1:30PM: **Lunch and Fellowship at the Brethren Church**

123 E Main St.
301-432-4944 / sharpsburgcob@outlook.com

April 11 at 6PM: **Taste of East Africa**

Sharpsburg Lions Club
St Paul's Episcopal Church, 209 West Main
sharpsburglions@gmail.com
See Poster on page 16

April 11: **Deadline – Application Submission Hometown Hero Banners**

Contact Town Hall
301.432.4428 / townofsharpsburg@comcast.net

April 13: 2024 **Spring Bonanza SVFC (Sharpsburg Volunteer Fire Company)**

(See Article in last month's Town Crier.)
Cochran's Auction Complex, Boonsboro
301-991-2230

April 15: **Deadline – Applications: Memorial Day Parade/Viet Nam Veterans Memorial Day Participation**

Contact Town Hall
301.432.4428 / townofsharpsburg@comcast.net

April 16 at 7PM: **ScaleTrain™ Meet and Greet**

17230 Shepherdstown Pike
(Antietam Train Station)

See Poster on page 17

April 17 at 1:30PM: Homeschool Book Club, Rikki- Tikki- Tavi, Rudyard Kipling

Sharpsburg Library
301-432-8825

April 20 at 1PM: **Dedication of America 250 Plaque**

Sharpsburg Town Square
Antietam Chapter of the Maryland Daughters of the American Revolution

<https://sites.google.com/marylanddar.org/antietamdar/home>

April 25 at 3:30PM: **A "Chalking Good" Story Time.** (Fill the basketball court with positive messages and pictures.)

Sharpsburg Park (if inclement weather in the library)
126 W High Street

For Information: Sharpsburg Library
301-432-8825

April 27 at 7AM to 10AM **Fishing Rodeo** (Awards to Follow)

Sharpsburg Pond Park
Contact: Sharpsburg Town Hall
301-432-4428

May 4 from 9:30AM to 11:30AM: **Come All Who Are Thirsty (CAWAT)**

Veterans Group, Quarterly Breakfast & Meeting

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

May 25 Event Times to Follow: **157th Memorial Day Commemoration**

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

June 1 at 2PM: **Commanders of Antietam, Gary Rohrer- MG William B. Franklin**

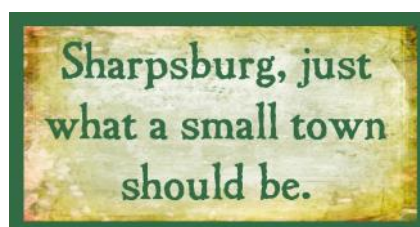
Pry House Barn, 18906 Shepherdstown Pike, Keedysville, MD 21756
president@antietaminstitute.org

June 3 at 7PM: **Jim Rosebrock, The Empire State at Antietam**

Civil War Lecture Series
Sponsor, Rohrbach Inn at St. Paul's Episcopal Church
209 W. Main St.
301-432-5079

June 10 at 7PM: **Dr. Gordon Dammann, Changes in Medicine from The Civil War to World War I**

Civil War Lecture Series
Sponsor, Rohrbach Inn at St. Paul's Episcopal Church
209 W. Main St.
301-432-5079



June 15 at 2PM: **Commanders of Antietam, Laura Marfut – Col. John R. Brooke**

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

June 17 at 7PM: **Kevin Pawlak / Dan Welch, "Never Such a Campaign": The Battle of Second Manassas, Aug. 28-30, 1862**

Civil War Lecture Series
Sponsor, Rohrbach Inn at St. Paul's Episcopal Church
209 W. Main St.
301-432-5079

June 24 at 7PM: **George Franks, The Army of The Potomac After Gettysburg**

Civil War Lecture Series
Sponsor, Rohrbach Inn at St. Paul's Episcopal Church
209 W. Main St.
301-432-5079

June 29 at 2PM: **Commanders of Antietam, Jim Buchanan – MG John Sedgwick**

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

July 1 at 7PM: **Dr. Brad Gottfried, At the Forefront of the Armies: The Role of the Cavalry During the Maryland Campaign**

Civil War Lecture Series
Sponsor, Rohrbach Inn at St. Paul's Episcopal Church
209 W. Main St.
301-432-5079

July 8 at 7PM: **Sharon Murray, Dixon S. Miles Reconsidered**

Civil War Lecture Series
Sponsor, Rohrbach Inn at St. Paul's Episcopal Church
209 W. Main St.
301-432-5079

July 13 at 2PM: **Commanders of Antietam, Tom McMillian -Brig. Gen. Lewis A. Armistead and Brig. Gen. Winfield Scott Hancock**

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

July 15 at 7PM: **D. Scott Hartwig, One Man's Experiences: Major Rufus Dawes and the Battle of Antietam**

Civil War Lecture Series
Sponsor, Rohrbach Inn at St. Paul's Episcopal Church
209 W. Main St.
301-432-5079

July 27 at 2PM: **Commanders of Antietam, Michael Hill – Brig. Gen. Thomas Meagher**

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

July 22 at 7PM: **Dr. Alex Rossino, Longstreet's March to Hagerstown and Back, Sept. 11-14, 1862**

Civil War Lecture Series
Sponsor, Rohrbach Inn at St. Paul's Episcopal Church
209 W. Main St.
301-432-5079

July 29 at 7PM: **Dana Shoaf, The Evolution of Civil War Ambulances**

Civil War Lecture Series
Sponsor, Rohrbach Inn at St. Paul's Episcopal Church
209 W. Main St.
301-432-5079

August 5 at 7PM: **Dr. Tom Clemens, Washington County's Forgotten Military Hero**

Civil War Lecture Series
Sponsor, Rohrbach Inn at St. Paul's Episcopal Church
209 W. Main St.
301-432-5079

August 10 at 2PM: **Commanders of Antietam, Sharon Murray – Colonel B. F. Davis**

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

August 12 at 7PM: **Dr. Jim Broomall, "The hills were black with spectators": Civilians on the Antietam Battlefield**

Civil War Lecture Series
Sponsor, Rohrbach Inn at St. Paul's Episcopal Church
209 W. Main St.
301-432-5079

August 19 at 7PM: **Steve Stotelmyer, The Legend of Barbara Fritchie**

Civil War Lecture Series
Sponsor, Rohrbach Inn at St. Paul's Episcopal Church
209 W. Main St. 301-432-5079

August 24 at 2PM: **Commanders of Antietam, Joe Stahl – Col. Harrison S. Fairchild**

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

August 26 at 7PM: **John Schildt/Laura Marfut, "Roads to Antietam"**

Civil War Lecture Series
Sponsor, Rohrbach Inn at St. Paul's Episcopal Church
209 W. Main St.
301-432-5079

September 7 at 2PM: **Commanders of Antietam, Jim Rosebrock – Col. Stephen D. Lee**

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

September 21 at 2PM: **Commanders of Antietam, Harry Smeltzer – Col Albert L. Magilton**

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

October 5 at 2PM: **Commanders of Antietam, Marty Pritchett – Col. James A. Walker**

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

October 19 at 2PM: **Commanders of Antietam, Jim Smith – Brig. Gen. Max Weber**

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

Recurring Events

Second Wednesdays from 12Noon to 1:30PM: **Lunch and Fellowship at the Brethren Church**

123 E Main St.

301-432-4944 / sharpsburgcob@outlook.com

Anytime the Library is Open: **Special Events: Winter Spice Club**

(Pick Up a Sample, History, Recipes)
Sharpsburg Library
301-432-8825

February 1 Through April 11 from 9:00AM to 3:00PM: **Master Gardeners**

Registration Required

Contact: acormany@umd.edu / 301-791-1604

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

Sharpsburg Library
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

sharpsburglions@gmail.com

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 10AM, 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
Sunday Worship - 9:00am, Sunday School - 10:15am

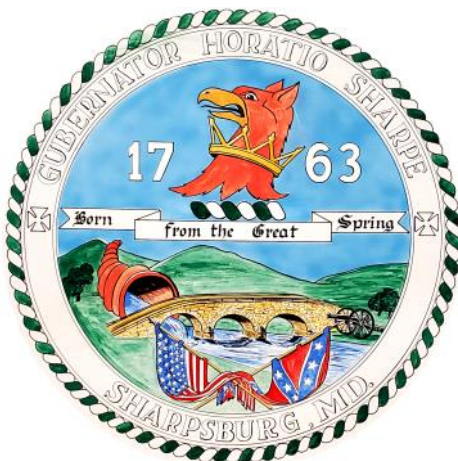
Sharpsburg Bible Church

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
(Debbie Smith – 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](https://www.facebook.com/TheTownOfSharpsburg)
Zoning Administrator-Tim Lung
Sharpsburg.md.zoning@gmail.com

msa 3/28/24 Ver1.0



ATTACHMENTS:

**SHARPSBURG MAYOR AND COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 4, 2024**

The Mayor and Council of Sharpsburg, MD held their monthly meeting on Monday, March 4, 2024 in the Council meeting room of Town Hall located at 106 E. Main Street in Sharpsburg. In attendance were Mayor Russell Weaver, Vice Mayor Jacob Martz, Councilmembers Ed Beeler, Joseph Kudla, John Hammond and Mia Parsons and Robbie Waters. Also in attendance was Town Clerk Debra Smith and Zoning Administrator Tim Lung was present via zoom.

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE Mayor Weaver called the meeting of the Mayor and Council to order at 6:00 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance led by Councilmember Parsons followed by a moment of silence.

MOTION TO AMEND THE AGENDA- Mayor Weaver asked for a motion to amend the agenda to move the Roulette/Downey Request for Alley Access from Unfinished Business to the beginning of the agenda to obtain public comments. Motion by Councilmember Beeler, second by Councilmember Kudla to approve. Motion carried.

Roulette/Downey Request for Alley Access

Zoning Administrator Tim Lung stated that a request submitted to the town by Mr. Lee Downey in January 2024 for issuance of a permit to provide access to the property from a Town owned alley located behind W. Chapline Street for a proposed new single-family dwelling to be constructed on an existing lot of record which is located in the County and has alley frontage. The matter was tabled at the February meeting pending comments from the Fire Department and the Planning Commission which have now been submitted as follows;

- Sharpsburg Volunteer Fire Department is opposed primarily due to inadequate access to the proposed site.
- The Sharpsburg Planning Commission recommends denial of the request for safety concerns due to inadequate fire/rescue apparatus, would benefit from town infrastructure without paying town taxes.

Mayor Weaver opened the floor for citizen comments.

Those speaking in favor spoke first.

- Lee Downey read his letter of request into the record, adding that the lot has a well but no sewer and requested that because the lot previously had a home on it, that it be grandfathered in.
- Chris Shaffer of 17802 Miller Sawmill Rd stated that he had no issues with the request.
- Justin Holder submitted an email in favor of providing the alley access request. This was read into the record by Mayor Weaver.
- Ron Vertrees of 127 E. Main Street stated that he was neither in favor nor opposed, and stated that annexation should be a condition of approval.

Those in opposition were provided an opportunity to speak.

- Cathy Hull of 229 W. Chapline Street stated that property would have to be taken from her in order to widen the alley. They also would not be paying town taxes.
- Barb Lubinski of 307 W. Chapline Street asked how citizens learn about town meetings such as the one occurring tonight. Mayor Weaver stated that the agenda is posted and minutes are posted as well on the town's website and in the Town Crier.
- Heidi Vertrees of 127 E. Main Street would like to see alleys preserved.
- Claudine Marcum of 305 W. Chapline Street stated that the alley is not wide enough for fire apparatus.

Mayor Weaver asked for Council comments.

- Councilmember Hammond; the town would be setting a precedence if voting in favor.
- Councilmember Beeler; would not be paying town taxes or upgrading the alley.
- Councilmember Waters; Would need to take property away from town tax payers to widen the alley to accommodate a non-town tax paying property.

- Vice-Mayor Martz; Cannot widen the alley for fire, rescue or garbage access and also a violation of the town's ordinance.
- Councilmember Kudla; widening the alley is not feasible
- Councilmember Parsons; Following the recommendation of the Planning Commission

Mayor Weaver gave Mr. Downey an opportunity to offer a rebuttal. He stated that he would abide by the town's decision.

Motion by Councilmember Kudla, second by Councilmember Hammond to deny the request for alley access by Mr. Lee Downey. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - February 5, 2024 Regular Minutes – Motion by Councilmember Waters, second by Councilmember Kudla to approve. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL REPORTS - February 2024 Financial Report -Motion by Councilmember Waters, second by Councilmember Beeler to approve. Motion carried.

ZONING ADMINISTRATORS REPORT – Tim Lung

- Waiting for the end of the compliance period on zoning compliance notice issued regarding (junk) on property along the south side of East Antietam Street.
- Waiting for the end of the compliance period on zoning compliance notice issued regarding a zoning violation (unpermitted business) on property along the south side of West Main Street.
- Continue to wait for a response from the State Highway Administration regarding the sight distance issue at the corner on Church St (MD 65) and E. Main St. (MD34).
- Responded to a question regarding permitting to replace an existing dwelling on property at E. Antietam Street.
- Reviewing information regarding adoption of a yard sale ordinance.
- Developing a citizen Zoning/Code violation complaint form. Will present a draft at the April meeting.

MAYORS REPORT – Mayor Weaver

- Wells - Contract in place, sit selected and drilling to begin in March.
- Historic Park - Frederick Seibert and Associates has finished detailed design and provided Town with final estimates of project admin, management costs and total costs.
- Big Spring –We are resubmitting during this cycle. We also are in process of executing a new deed for the third time.
- Boyer House – Brian Kane will edit sales agreement to reflect last SHAF feedback. Oversight committee needs to form/meet.
- Streets & General Maintenance – Great job of addressing recent winter storms!
- Community Park – Recovering costs from Project Open Space. Park is open. See Robbie's report.
- Lutheran Cemetery – Committee forming with Mia leading.

CORRESPONDENCE

MML – City of Hagerstown, March 25th

Donation Request: Bridge To Caring, Inc. – **TABLE** until next meeting

COUNCIL MEMBERS REPORTS

Councilmember Parsons – stated there are 2 trees to be replaced on Main Street. Briefly touched on the proposed preservation of the Lutheran Cemetery management plan.

Councilmember Waters – obtaining cost of paint for town curbs.

Vice Mayor Martz -

Big Spring Grant

-Submitted updated budget for Big Spring grant

- Obtained updated letters of support
- Final grant application submitted for review

Community Events

-Attended and delivered remarks at Battleview’s 30th anniversary commemoration. Event was also attended by representatives from Congressman Trone’s office and County Commissioners.

Memorial Day

- Created and posted to town website parade forms which may be completed and submitted completely online.
- Created an event poster for distribution.
- Received confirmation for use of elementary school
- Second Keynote Speaker added to morning program - COL Richard Hembrook
- Received over 20 completed parade participant applications so far
- We are now accepting orders for books and book sponsorships, order forms are available.
- Received final cost estimate and submitted flight plan for aerial flyover to Flight Operations Director
- Next committee meeting is Tuesday, March 5th at 6:00 pm

Councilmember Beeler: Sharpsburgh Museum of History/Town of Sharpsburg

- January’s Attendance: 118
- Security
- Fundraiser – 2023-2024 – our goal: \$10,000 our total as of to date is \$1213.00 +\$500 for sign
- Artifact room - The four new cases are finished with new displays and are working on our last case and then waiting on our signs to finish this room. And then some staff will be working on the outer displays.
- Volunteers – Still in need of volunteers.
- Donations – We are to get two major donations but until they are here, I’ll only say we are to get them.
- Re-Grand Opening/ Ribbon cutting will be on April 5-6, 5th will be a reception/tour for all our sponsors and dignitaries and the 6th will be our ribbon cutting /tour for the general public.

Councilmember Hammond -Inquired about the time to bring the new well online. Mayor Weaver stated 6months to 1 year. Also asked if the town has been fully reimbursed for tree removal on a foreclosed property in town. The Town Clerk will verify.

Councilmember Kudla – will be meeting with FSA regarding the water situation at S. Church and E. Antietam Streets. Installed one of the radar signs on E. Main Street. Will schedule the street sweeper after the bulk clean up.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

M. Deputy Watkins – Resident Deputy

Elementary school - 7 checks.	Total sheriff’s office events in February - 155
Park - 1 check.	Disorderly conduct - 1
Little league field - 1 check.	Burglary - 0
Bank lot - 1 night.	Theft from motor vehicle - 0
Traffic Enforcement - 3 hours.	Theft - 0
Calls for service - 11.	Suspicious person - 0
Call outs - 1.	Undesirable - 0
Town meeting - attended.	Malicious destruction of property - 1

Park Advisory Board - Chris Vincent – the new Superintendent has been appointed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Atlantic Security System Service Agreement for Parks – Motion by Councilmember Hammond, second by Councilmember Waters to not purchase the full - service parts and warranty agreement at an annual cost of \$2,277.00 because that money would be better invested in a full replacement in 3-5 years. Motion carried. Also discussed was the creation of an equipment replacement policy.

NEW BUSINESS

Annual Fishing Rodeo – Councilmember Waters stated that the rodeo would be held on Saturday, April 27th from 7-10 AM. R.W. Waters will provide the hot dogs. **Motion** by Vice-Mayor Martz and second by Councilmember Kudla to donate \$500 for the event. Motion carried.

Spring Bulk Pick Up – Looking at mid-May. Will confirm and advertise.

Mayor Weaver stated that he will be on a leave of absence for approximately 30 days and all matters will be handled by Town Clerk Debra Smith and Vice-Mayor Jake Martz.

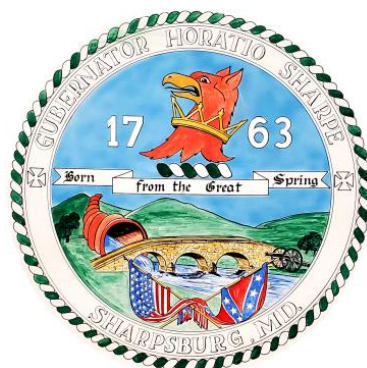
Motion by Vice-Mayor Martz, second by Councilmember Waters to close the meeting at 7:20 PM. Motion carried.

April 1, 2024 Meeting Action/Agenda Items:

- Alley Naming
- Review of On-hold Projects

Respectfully submitted,

Debra Smith
Town Clerk



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Sharpsburg Memorial Day Parade

America's Longest Continuously-Held Memorial Day Parade!



Where history is made with each step!

Join us for our 157th Annual Commemoration!

When: May, 25th 2024

**Where: Main Street
Sharpsburg, MD**

**Time: Ceremony at 11:00 a.m.
Parade at 2:00 p.m.**

**Theme: Honoring Veterans
of the Viet Nam War**

Join the Parade and Be a Part of the Action!

For More Information on How to Register:

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Email: townofsharpsburg@comcast.net

Phone: (301) 432-4428

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All Viet Nam Era Veterans are Encouraged to Participate!

Remembering those we lost



Honoring those who served