



Town of Sharpsburg

Town Crier



Volume 23 April 2013 Number 4

Town Council Minutes

These are not the “official” minutes of the meeting, they are an overview of the business that was conducted. Official minutes can be obtained from the Town Clerk.

The meeting of the Mayor and Council was called to order at 7:03pm by Mayor Hal Spielman. The minutes of the March meeting and the Treasurer’s report were both approved unanimously.

Public Comment

Ron Pitts of the ESGR (Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve) officially thanked the Town of Sharpsburg for signing a pledge to support the military. Mr. Pitts also had a picture taken of Mayor Spielman signing the pledge while the council and audience looked on.

Ms. Carla Buzzard presented to the town the idea that a group of Bucky the Deer Supporters and Friends are raising funds to plant a tree and erect a plaque in honor of Bucky. She was questioning if the town would allow this and where to place it. Darryl suggested the Little League field, since that area is visited frequently. It will not only be seen by a lot of people, but it would be safely located behind locked gates. Ms. Buzzard and Bucky’s family, Jeff and Doris Shumaker agreed. They will speak to the little league in regards to where it can be placed. Funds that are raised for the project will go towards the purchase of the tree and plaque. Left over funds will be donated to the Sharpsburg Little League.

Committee Reports

Parks and Railroad Station – The fire department will be contacted to power wash the graffiti from the pavilion at the park. The inmates will be installing the new slide piece once the weather breaks. Mayes Port-A-Pot Service will be delivering the port-a-pots to the park and pond the first week of April. The striping on the basketball court is striped incorrectly. Darryl knows of a striping company in Keedysville that he will contact to get a price on re-striping this area.

Building – Nothing to report

Streets – A vehicle accident at the corner of South Hall and Main Street has knocked the Stop sign on South Hall Street loose and crooked. Kimberly will call the county to see if they would be willing to re-straighten it. The Stop sign in the alley behind West Main Street has been knocked down. Darryl will take care of getting this back up.

Planning and Zoning – Patty Hammond, Planning and Zoning Chairperson, was present for the first reading of the Comprehensive Plan. The major changes were in the Water Resource Element, in regards to numbers increasing. There are agricultural easements on property that borders the town. Mr. Weaver will call the County to see if they can tell us when these easements will expire. The fire department and EMS facilities section needs changed to state that they are working on a new facility to bring their department up to today’s standards. The first reading of the Comprehensive Plan was

approved by Mr. Weaver and seconded by Darryl. The second reading will be on Monday, May 6, 2013 at 7pm in town hall.

Battlefield Advisory Committee – This meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 3, 2013 and Mr. Jamieson will give the report to Kimberly for the Crier.

Public Safety – There have been some thefts in the alleys and from buildings that line the alleys. We cannot stress enough, if this happens to you, please call the sheriff's department to report these issues. Calling a councilperson or the clerk is not acceptable; this needs to go to the police. Kimberly will update the website with phone numbers of police and other agencies that the town uses. Mayor Spielman will also talk to the police about being present to enforce the crosswalks in the square.

Old Business: Fishing Rodeo – this will be held on Saturday, May 4, 2013 from 7am-11am at the town pond. This event is free and is open to children ages 0-15. Brandon has agreed to lead this program.

New Business: The County Commissioners will hold a public hearing at their meeting on April 9, 2013 at 11 in regards to raising the water and sewer rates.

Bulk Trash Pick-up – This will be held on Wednesday, April 24, 2013. Items are to be placed out beside your regular trash items. Kimberly will place in the crier and will place fliers around town.

Brush Pick-up – This will be held on Saturday, May 4, 2013. Brush is to be placed in the alleys, or if you do not back to an alley, place it out front where your trash will be placed. This could take 2 Saturday's to complete. Kimberly will place in the Crier and will put fliers up as well.

The meeting was moved into Closed Session to discuss property issues and taxes by Bryan and seconded by Cathy. The meeting was moved from closed session at 9pm back into regular session, where it was adjourned by Bryan and seconded by Brandon. The next meeting will be Monday, May 6, 2013 at 7pm in town hall.

A Little Piece of History

Answers from last month's crier:



Remnants of the Antietam Iron Works, located just outside of Sharpsburg on the Antietam Creek. The Iron Works employed local men by the hundreds from 1765 to 1880. The Iron Works made farm tools and tools for war, spanning from the Revolutionary War, War of 1812 and the Civil War.



This famous picture was taken within two days after the Battle of Antietam by Alexander Gardner. It is of the heavily damaged Lutheran Church, on the East Side of Sharpsburg. The church was originally built in 1768, but after it was damaged by Union Artillery it was torn down. Alexander Gardner took about 30 pictures of Antietam and the Battle, and they can be viewed and copied at the Library of Congress website.



This photo is of the monument that was placed at the burial plot of Joseph Chapline, Founder of Sharpsburg. Joseph Chapline died in 1769 at the age of 62 and was buried in the family burial grounds of Mount Pleasant. 100 years later, his remains were moved to Mountain View Cemetery in Sharpsburg.



The Clara Barton Monument is located on the Antietam national Battlefield and pays respect to Ms. Barton for bringing supplies and nursing aid to the wounded during the battle. Her act of mercy led to the birth of the American Red Cross. The Red Cross, located near the bottom of the monument, is from the chimney of Clara Barton's home, where she was born in Massachusetts on Christmas Day in 1821.



Another Alexander Gardner photograph. If you look to the left of the building pictured, you will see the Episcopal Church, located on West Main Street.



This photo was taken in 1900, of the Main Street in Sharpsburg. It appears that the photographer took the picture from somewhere in the vicinity of where the Jefferson Security Bank is today. It is almost like looking down East Main Street today; funny how some things never change.

Upcoming Events

250th Committee Meeting

The 250th committee of the Sharpsburg Commemoration celebration will be meeting on April 17, 2013 at 7pm in Town Hall. So far, the events being discussed are:

- Wreath laying at the Chapline Plot in Mt. View Cemetery
- Old fashioned Ice Cream Social
- Signage placed at the Great Spring with a ceremony to commemorate the placement
- Raffle to raise money for the Historical Society
- T-Shirt sales to benefit the Historical Society
- Book Signing at the library
- A register book and information area

These events are still in the planning stages. We hope to get an itinerary nailed down. Volunteers and ideas are always welcome! Come out to the meeting and be a part of this historical event!

Sharpsburg Heritage Festival Meeting

The next meeting of the Sharpsburg Heritage Festival will be on Wednesday, April 24, 2013 at 7pm at town hall. Everyone is welcome to attend! This year's festival will be held on Saturday, September 14th.

Announcements

Annual Memorial Day Events Planned



Mark your calendars for the 146th Memorial Day Commemoration Activities to be held on Saturday, May 25, 2013. The festivities begin with a wreath laying ceremony in front of Town

Hall at 11am. Come out and pay respect to those that lost their lives to fight for our freedom and rights. At 1:45pm, the parade will step off from the Sharpsburg Elementary School and will travel down Main Street to the Antietam National Cemetery. Concluding the days activities will be a Memorial Service at the conclusion of the parade in the Antietam National Cemetery. We hope that you will be a part of this annual celebration; the oldest in the nation.

Parade Books and Sponsorships

Parade Programs and sponsorships will be on sale until April 30, 2013. Orders are being taken at local churches, or you may contact the town hall during normal business hours. If you would like to help with sponsoring the parade, write down how you would like your entry to appear in the book, making sure to make your entry legible. An example would be:

Jake, Jenny and Jacob Jennings

if you would like to place a memorial and/or honor in the book, write your information legibly. An example would be:

In Memory of Johnny Jones by Sally Brooks or In honor of Carter Cook by his daughter Chloe.

Each entry, up to two (2) lines is \$2 and books are \$2. The books will be available at your church or town hall by Saturday, May 18th. Books will also be available at local businesses.

Annual Fishing Rodeo to be held



The annual fishing rodeo is slated to be held on Saturday, May 4th at the town pond off of South Church Street. This event is a free event open to the local children ages 0-15. It will kick off at 7am and run until 11am, rain or shine. The children enjoy this activity and it gives them a chance to learn about fish and fishing while having fun. If you would like to assist with this event, please contact Kimberly Fulk at the town office at 301-432-4428 or at townofsharpsburg@comcast.net

Tenth Annual Washington County Museum Ramble

The tenth annual Washington County Museum Ramble will be on Saturday, May 4th from 10am-4pm and Sunday, May 5th from Noon until 4pm. Many of the local museums are participating in this event, including the Sharpsburg Historical Society. For a complete listing of participating museums, call 301-791-3246 or visit www.marylandmemories.com.

Sharpsburg Library to present “Lincoln”



The Sharpsburg Library will be showing the movie “Lincoln” on Thursday, May 9th at 6:30pm. The movie will be shown on the second floor of town hall in the council chambers. Everyone is welcome.

Town Quilt being planned

We are putting ideas together for a quilt commemorating Sharpsburg’s 250th birthday in July, 2013. We plan to use the Memorial Day Parade as a theme. Input from various groups and organizations in town, as well as from owners of businesses and landmarks would be appreciated. If you have any ideas or questions about the quilt, please call Jean at 301-491-7045.

Battlefield Advisory Committee



Antietam Battlefield is dealing with the sequestration of federal funding. This spring and summer the battlefield will detail six of its personnel in various career fields to other parks. The visitor’s center will not expand its hours during the summer, as it usually does. Some education programs will be cut and mowing and trimming reduced.

The better news is that several projects that already had been funded are going well. Workmen soon will hang doors on the Parks/Cunningham barn, which will finish the restoration of that

building. The crews then will turn their attention to the Joshua Newcomer barn, where they will be working during April and May. The stucco work on the D.R. Miller house is expected to be finished in about two months, and fencing along the Hagerstown Pike will be replaced this spring. Interpretive markers funded by the Save Historic Antietam Foundation will be put up at the artillery sites created last year.

- Perry Jamieson

Goodbye to a Dear Deer Friend



On Saturday, March 16th, we got a phone call which we were dreading. Bucky, the loveable, tame, Sharpsburg area “pet” deer was dead, with a rope around his neck and caught in a fence.

In June of 2011, Jeff and Doris Shumaker found a very small, newborn deer lying in the road. Its mother could not be found, so Jeff and Doris adopted this sweet baby and raised him. He was named “Bucky” and his home for several weeks was a cardboard box. Often, he got many rides in Jeff’s truck. He was later moved to the farm where Jeff worked as a Meat Cutter, blending in perfectly. While growing up, he became a fixture and a conversation piece around the Sharpsburg area. He was totally tame, had a yellow tag in his ear with his name and date of birth, had his horns cut down (so no one would shoot him) and he was well known in the Sharpsburg area, especially on Harpers Ferry Road where he lived, but you might find Bucky just about anywhere at all. He was very inquisitive and wanted to know what everyone was doing, and also very naughty. It seemed that everywhere we went, someone would ask about Bucky. Bucky had so many human friends, and we are totally devastated. When the word got out about the death of Bucky, there were 25 calls on our phone. You had to know Bucky to really appreciate him. He loved all kinds of treats, but some of his favorites were Oreo Cookies and cheese crackers. He was well fed by the community. Everyone looked forward to his visits.

Here are some of the highlights of Bucky's life:

- ❖ Lots of times he could be seen looking in the door at the Meat Market where he lived
- ❖ Bucky shows up at our house, one mile from his home. Jeff comes in his truck (which Bucky knows) and Bucky follows Jeff home
- ❖ One day while I am at work, my wife Barb, is totally alarmed. She sees Bucky walking towards Sharpsburg on the yellow line (he loved the roadway.)
- ❖ Bucky goes into the town of Sharpsburg, causing total chaos. He is in the middle of the street holding up traffic.
- ❖ Bucky goes to the C&O Canal Towpath, where he runs with joggers
- ❖ Bucky enters himself into a 5K race, which comes through Sharpsburg, getting everyone's attention
- ❖ Bucky attends a house fire, and he eats candy bars with the firemen
- ❖ Bucky goes to the Little League Ball Diamond in Sharpsburg, and the kids are fascinated and feed him candy.
- ❖ We caught Bucky looking in our picture window

We're sure everyone has their "Bucky" stories, and he left us with lots of good memories. It's a tragedy that he had to die with a rope on his neck, getting caught in a fence where none of his friends could rescue him. It's even more tragic that his friends were searching and got there too late.

We love you, Bucky. Thanks for coming into our life. We cannot quit crying.

Barb and Gene Eichelberger
Sharpsburg, Maryland



Town of Sharpsburg Signs Statement of Support for the Guard and Reserve



Sharpsburg, MD – On April 1, 2013 the Town of Sharpsburg Mayor Hal Spielman signed a Statement of Support. Along with thanks from the committee for their demonstrated support for our National Guard and Reserve, Mayor Spielman, Vice Mayor Bryan Gabriel and council members, Brenda Gabriel, Darryl Benner, Cathy Hull, Brandon Smith and Russ Weaver received a “Boss Patriot Pin” as further recognition of their commitment to our citizen soldiers. The statement of support program has been the cornerstone of the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserves effort to gain and maintain employer or organization support. The intent of the program is to increase employer support of the Guard and Reserve by developing organizations that advocate for employee participation in the military.

Sharpsburg is a town in Washington County, Maryland, United States, located approximately 13 miles (21 km) south of Hagerstown. The population was 705 at the 2010 census. During the American Civil War, the Battle of Antietam (or Battle of Sharpsburg) was fought on what is now Antietam National Battlefield, in the vicinity of Antietam Creek.

The Statement of Support confirms the Town of Sharpsburg joins other organizations in pledging that:

- We fully recognize, honor and enforce the Uniformed Services Employment and Re-Employment Rights Act (USERRA).
- Our managers and supervisors will have the tools they need to effectively manage those employees who serve in the Guard and Reserve.
- We appreciate the values, leadership and unique skills service members bring to the workforce and will encourage opportunities to hire Guardsmen, Reservists and Veterans.

- We will continually recognize and support our country's service members and their families in peace, in crises and in war.

"Today, supportive organizations and employers are critical to maintaining the strength and readiness of the nation's Guard and Reserve units. I am asking all Maryland employers and organizations to take a look at their current human resources policies to incorporate policies supportive of Guard and Reserve employees," said Ron Pitts. "Many Maryland employers provide 'Above and Beyond' support with pay differential to offset the loss of wages, and extension of health care benefits, which complement coverage provided by the military, when their employees are mobilized."

When asked about the criteria, Mr. Pitts (Western Maryland Area Chair) said "By meeting the Statement of Support criteria, the Town of Sharpsburg pledges to stand proudly with its Guard and Reserve employees, who continue to answer their nation's call to defend our way of life. Their personal sacrifices are essential to the strength of our nation".

Photo: Center Mayor Hal Spielman, Left to right: Council members Brenda Gabriel and Darryl Benner, ESGR Ron Pitts, Vice Mayor Bryan Gabriel and Council members Cathy Hull, Brandon Smith and Russ Weaver.

Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve is a Department of Defense agency established in 1972 to develop and maintain employer support for Guard and Reserve service. ESGR advocates relevant initiatives, recognizes outstanding support, increases awareness of applicable laws, and resolves conflict between service members and employers. Paramount to ESGR's mission is encouraging employment of Guardsmen and Reservists who bring integrity, global perspective and proven leadership to the civilian workforce. For more information about ESGR Outreach Programs, or ESGR volunteer opportunities, please call 800-336-4590 or visit www.ESGR.mil.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

BULK TRASH PICK UP

Bulk Trash pick-up will be held on Wednesday, April 24, 2013. Place your bulk items out on Tuesday evening after 4pm beside your regular trash items. Paint, hazardous substances, car parts, remnants of home construction/remodeling will not be accepted. Refrigerators and air conditioners will be picked up, as long as the Freon has been removed.

BRUSH PICK UP

Brush pick-up will be held on Saturday, May 4, 2013. Brush is to be placed at the edge of your property near the alley behind your home, where it can be seen by the brush company; prior to May 4th. If you do not have an alley, place the brush out front where you place your trash for removal. Brush does not need to be cut into small pieces, in fact; it will be a much quicker

process for the company if you do not cut the limbs/brush into small pieces. This could take more than one Saturday to complete.