

Town of Sharpsburg

Town Crier



Volume 24 August 2014 Number 5

The minutes of the town meeting are not the official minutes; they are an overview of the business conducted. A copy of the official minutes can be obtained at the town office from the clerk.

The monthly meeting of the Sharpsburg Mayor and Council was called to order at 7:30pm by Mayor Hal Spielman. The minutes of the July meeting were approved as amended. The July treasurer's report was approved.

Public Comment

Ed Beeler of the Sharpsburg Historical Society presented the Town with a CD of the Joseph Chapline Hayes documents from Duke University. The records were obtained by Mr. Bonnard Morgan and copies were given to the Historical Society and the Town by him.

Sid Gale with Tolson's Chapel asked if the town could cut the trees that run along the alley behind Tolson's Chapel. He was told that the town can cut the right of way back, but any further tree trimming or cutting would need to be done by the property owner.

Steve Kemmet of Captain Bender's Tavern presented the council with documents and asked if he could have a heritage day at the Tavern on Saturday, September 20th. He would like to extend the beer garden in the rear of the property, just for the day and he would like to set up a fenced in area along the sidewalk on the front of his property to serve alcohol that day as well. Permission for this was granted.

Brady Burkner has been completing a summer internship for the town. He presented a report on the items that he has been working on, primarily getting documents updated to place on the website and projects that the Town can complete to meet the requirements for the Watershed Implementation Plan.

Committee Reports

Parks/Railroad Station: To repair the slide at the park and have Taylor Sports install the new sections would be \$5,234.27. A completely new slide, with installation would be \$5,990. Darryl thought that maybe we could use some material to repair the slide. It was decided to try to

repair it first and also call the insurance company to see if we are covered under vandalism before we go to such an expense.

Building: Steve Goodrich, Director of the Washington County Planning and Zoning Department will be attending the September meeting to discuss his findings for funding for the property on South Mechanic Street.

Streets: Antietam Paving was given the ok to pave various areas in town and to place speed bumps at the pond, the ball field and in the alley behind the ball field. We have not been given a start date yet. Jeter Paving will be seal coating the parking lot at 104 South Mechanic Street. We need to get signage placed there instructing people not to park there. Bryan will let Kimberly know the proper language for this so that it can be ordered.

Planning and Zoning: The Comprehensive Plan and comments have returned from the State. New members on the committee include: Tamara White, Marty McElroy, Stephen Kemmet, Ed Beeler, Rob Tudor. Patty Hammond is the Chairperson. These new members will be emailed the Comprehensive Plan, the comments we received on the Plan and the link to the Planning Commission course that is required by the State.

Battlefield Advisory Committee: This meeting will be held on August 6th. Perry Jamieson will get the notes to Kimberly for the Crier.

Public Safety: The tree in the square in front of 311 West Main Street needs trimmed. It is becoming difficult to see oncoming traffic.

Old Business

Virginia Cook Headstone Fund: Townspeople donated a total of \$860 towards a gravemarker/headstone for Ms. Cook. These funds will be turned over to the Friends of Tolson's Chapel so that they can choose a marker that is appropriate for Ms. Cook and the Tolson's Cemetery. Left over monies will be placed in the cemetery and gravestone maintenance fund.

New Business

Trick or Treat: This will be held on Thursday, October 30th from 6pm-8pm

Christmas Tree Lighting: This will be held on Friday, December 5th at 6pm. Cathy will check with the school to see if they wish to make ornaments and help decorate the tree again this year

County Commissioner Town Meeting: The County Commissioners will be holding a Town Meeting on September 30th at 7pm at Town Hall. This meeting is open to the public and if you have a question or concern, you are encouraged to come and speak to the County Commissioners

The meeting was adjourned at 9pm. The next meeting will be Tuesday, September 2nd at 7:30pm at Town Hall.

Town News

Headstone Fundraiser a Success

Thank you to all who donated towards the purchase of a headstone for Ms. Virginia Cook. Townspeople donated a total of \$935. These funds were given to Ms. Edie Wallace, President of the Friends of Tolson's Chapel. Her organization will purchase the stone for Ms. Cook and any leftover funds will be placed in the Gravestone Maintenance Fund for the chapel.

Town Office Closure

The town office will be closed on Monday, September 1, 2014.

County Commissioners to hold September meeting at Town Hall

The County Commissioners will be holding a town meeting on Tuesday, September 30th at 7pm at Sharpsburg Town Hall. This meeting is open to the public and townspeople are encouraged to attend to ask questions and voice your concerns.

Community News and Events

Maryland Environmental Trust to hold reception



The Maryland Environmental Trust in partnership with the C&O Canal Trust is holding a landowner reception in Washington County on September 4, 2014 from 5pm-7pm at the C&O Canal Lockhouse 49. Landowners and interested parties are invited to join in celebrating conservation and to learn opportunities to protect farms, forests and wildlife in Washington

County. Local wine will be served and there will be a tour of the historic lockhouse. Space is limited, so please RSVP by August 28th to Megan.Benjamin@maryland.gov or 410-514-7912.

Church News



St. Paul's Episcopal Church hosting speaker on Vesper Sparrows

St. Paul's Episcopal Church, located at 209 West Main Street, will be hosting speaker Wil Hershberger on Saturday, September 13th from 9:30am-10:30am. Mr. Hershberger will be speaking on the Vesper Sparrow Song Project.

Vesper Sparrows have been declining rapidly over most of their breeding range. Habitat loss, changes in land use practices and the use of pesticides have been linked to this decline. The song of the Vesper Sparrow is musical and haunting. This beautiful song can be heard from just before sunrise, throughout the day and lasting past sunset – hence the name Vesper.

Light refreshments will be served. If you have any questions, call Stephanie at 301-432-7033 or visit www.stpaulssharpburg.org.

Help Support Public Safety in our Community



The Sharpsburg Volunteer Fire Company (S.V.F.C.) is currently constructing a new operations center to house apparatus and emergency responders. However; there is a cost associated with such public infrastructure.

To minimize the effects of this construction on our operating budget, S.V.F.C. invites the community to join us in funding and leaving your mark on this special project. The S.V.F.C. is currently selling memorial engraved tiles to be placed in the new station. Tiles will be sold for \$100, with proceeds going to the building project.

These 4"x8" tiles can be personalized with up to three (3) lines of text (up to 20 characters per line.) Simple clip-art can be added for an additional \$25 with some text restrictions.

If interested, please see a S.V.F.C. member or call 301-799-1120 for details.

Thank you for your support.

Battlefield Advisory Committee



- On August 1, the National Park Service released the final version of its plan to manage the white-tailed deer herds on the Antietam, Monocacy and Manassas National Battlefields. The Park Service began developing the Battlefield Deer Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement, required by federal law, in 2014. The plan will be open for public review until September 3. Comments can be made online at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/>. The address for written comments is available at the battlefield headquarters.
- In late July the NPS Washington, D.C. office approved printing the draft of the special resource study of the Shepherdstown battlefield, and making it available for public comment. Two public meetings are scheduled: at Antietam National Battlefield, on Tuesday, September 9, 5-8pm; and at the Clarion Hotel, Shepherdstown, on Thursday, September 11, 5-8pm. On August 8, a Park Service press release will confirm these dates and times.
- Workers from the Historical Preservation Training Center have completed the initial repairs to the Burnside Bridge, damaged by last winter's severe weather. Next, an engineering firm will examine the concrete tub, which was added to the bridge in the 1950s and determine if it needs attention, or if any other work needs to be done.

- Perry Jamieson

Citizen Corner

Grateful recognition and a big thank you goes out to Sonny Edleblute, Ryan Clipp, Keith Clipp and Ralph Dodson for keeping Mountain View Cemetery so well groomed. Most likely, someone living in town has a loved one resting there now. It takes a lot of time and effort to maintain the cemetery grounds, which have grown over the years. Sonny's, Ryan's, Keith's and Ralph's dedication to their work shows pride and appreciation for our little town. Should you see any of these men on the streets of town or elsewhere, give them a thank you and a job well done. I know I will.

- Darlene Albritton

Town Government

Town Office – 301-432-4428

Hours of Operation: Monday - Thursday 8:30am-2:00pm, additional hours available by appointment

Mayor and Council

Hal Spielman – Mayor	301-432-6854
Bryan Gabriel – Vice Mayor	301-432-2478
Darryl Benner – Councilperson	301-991-2230
Brenda Gabriel – Councilperson	301-432-2478
Cathy Hull – Councilperson	304-279-8440
Brandon Smith – Councilperson	301-491-4866
Russ Weaver – Councilperson	301-432-5907

The Sharpsburg Town Crier
PO Box 368
Sharpsburg, MD 21782

