

Town of Sharpsburg

Town Crier



Volume 25 February 2016 Number 1

The minutes of the Council meeting are an overview of business conducted and are not the official minutes of the meeting. The official minutes are available at the Clerk's office.

The meeting of the Sharpsburg Mayor and Council was called to order by Mayor Hal Spielman at 7:03pm.

The minutes of the January meeting and the January treasurer's report were both approved as presented.

Public Comment

None

Keith Moore from Frederick Seibert & Associates presented the Mayor and Council with a final drawing and cost estimate for the East Chapline Street project. The project will cost approximately \$53,000. The Mayor and Council approved for the project to go forward. Mr. Moore will turn the drawings and documents over to the County for their review. Once the County approves the project, Mr. Moore will notify Kimberly so that a bid packet can go out.

Mr. Moore also discussed the FEMA floodplain. Frederick Seibert & Associates surveyed the area to check the area that FEMA had categorized as a flood area for properties along the south side of East Main Street. They have obtained about the same measurements that FEMA concluded with, however; they disagree with some of the terms and areas that FEMA has mapped out. Mr. Moore has provided a letter and documentation to be sent to the County and then on to FEMA to protest FEMA's floodplain area.

Committee Reports

Parks & Railroad Station: Nothing to report

Building: The chair rail has been installed and it looks very nice.

Streets: During the cleanup from the blizzard, the State Highway Administration damaged the drain grate in front of Pete's Tavern. Mayor Spielman will notify the State Highway Administration about this. The State did a very nice job of removing the snow and we appreciate them doing that for us.

Planning & Zoning: The Comprehensive Plan seems to be complete, but has not been approved by the Chair of the Planning Commission, due to not being able to reach her. Mr. Weaver will continue his attempts to reach her and in the meantime, will email the Comp Plan out to the members for their review.

Battlefield Advisory Committee: The meeting will take place on February 3rd. Perry Jamieson will get the notes to Kimberly to include in the Crier.

Public Safety: Nothing to report

Mayor's Report: Nothing to report

Old Business

Police Presence in town: The Mayor of Boonsboro is not in favor of having a deputy in Sharpsburg and Keedysville. In order for them to help with this, it would probably need to wait until at least 2017. The Mayor and Council would still like to sit down with the Boonsboro Police Department, members of the Boonsboro Mayor and Council and members of the Keedysville Mayor and Council to see if we can at least get a discussion started on this project.

Christmas tree: Once the snow melts and we can actually get to the tree, it will be removed.

New Business

Snow Removal from the blizzard: FEMA has indicated that it will reimburse municipalities for at least some of their costs for snow removal from the blizzard.

Legion Building: The Mayor and Council will meet with attorney Brian Kane in regards to the Legion building and where to go from here. Once this has been scheduled, Kimberly will notify the members of the date and time.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50pm by Bryan and seconded by Brandon.

Town News

Thank you snow angels!

Thank you to everyone that answered the call to help out the townspeople during the blizzard. I had many calls and concerns from citizens that were unable to shovel their sidewalks. Once I placed a Facebook message out asking for help, I had emails and Facebook messages from citizens willing to answer the call. Thank you to all of the individuals that jumped in and helped out. It is appreciated and it was great to see neighbors helping one another out.

Thank you as well to B&B Automotive and their employees for the great job getting the streets cleared and the snow moved away from the side streets. We know that you all put in many long, cold hours to achieve this and we appreciate it.

Town Accepting Bids for Mowing

INVITATION TO BID

TOWN OF SHARPSBURG, MARYLAND

MOWING OF TOWN PROPERTY

The Town of Sharpsburg is accepting bids to perform mowing/trimming and general grounds upkeep of town property. Bid packets are available at the town office, located on the second floor of Town Hall at 106 East Main Street, Monday-Thursday from 8:30am-1:30pm.

Sealed proposals will be accepted until 12:00 noon on Monday, March 7, 2016. Bids will be opened at the regular meeting of the Mayor and Council on Monday, March 7, 2016 at 7pm.

Questions should be directed to the Town Clerk, Kimberly Fulk, at 301-432-4428 Monday-Thursday between the hours of 8:30am-1:30pm.

Save the Date!

The 149th Memorial Day Commemoration will take place on Saturday, May 28th. The wreath laying ceremony will take place at 11am in the square, with the parade scheduled to step off from the Sharpsburg Elementary School at 1:30pm. We hope that you will join us for this 149 year-old tradition!

Memorials and Individual Sponsorship of the Parade

Memorials and individual sponsorship of the parade is available for purchase now at Town Hall. Memorials include a line in the parade book dedicated to your loved one. Individual sponsorship of the parade, which includes your name in the parade book, is also available. Memorials and sponsorships are available for \$2 per line (up to three (3) lines.) Pre-orders of parade books are also available for \$2. See Kimberly in Town Hall Monday-Thursday from 8:30am-1:30pm to place your sponsorships and/or to order your parade books. Orders can also be emailed to the town at townofsharpsburg@comcast.net, with payment being mailed to the town at Town of Sharpsburg PO Box 368, Sharpsburg MD 21782.

Orders and payment must be received by May 2, 2016

Parade Participation

If you or your organization would like to participate in the parade, contact Kimberly at Town Hall at 301-432-4428, or email townofsharpsburg@comcast.net.

February is Black History Month

In honor of Black History Month, we are re-printing an article that was written for the 147th Memorial Day Commemoration book on Tolson's Chapel; written by Edie Wallace, Chair of the Friends of Tolson's Chapel Organization.

Freedom Finds a Home in Tolson's Chapel

"Once you learn to read, you will be forever free." – Frederick Douglass

On an April morning in 1868, eighteen African – American students entered Tolson's Chapel in Sharpsburg to begin their first day of formal education. Twelve of the young people had been enslaved prior to 1864, when Maryland abolished slavery. Despite the hardships – excitement was palpable. Teacher Ezra Johnson wrote to his superiors, "The colored people are very anxious to have the school opened," noting that the cost of the school was "wholly supported by the Freedman." The American Union Freedman's Bureau school in Tolson's Chapel was the culmination of a community's determination to "be forever free."

Most Americans know that President Lincoln freed the slaves in the South, that is, the states "in rebellion against the United States," in 1863. But few know that the Emancipation Proclamation, issued following the Battle of Antietam or Sharpsburg, did not apply to those people enslaved in the Border States – Maryland, Delaware, Kentucky and Missouri – slave states still within the Union. It was an ironic twist for Jeremiah Summers and Hilary Watson, both slaves living on farms of the Antietam Battlefield. Maryland was the first of the Border States to abolish slavery, on November 1, 1864; Missouri was next in January 1865. The slaves of Kentucky and Delaware would have to wait until the 13th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution was ratified on December 6, 1865, before they could call themselves free.

Tolson's Chapel was born of Maryland emancipation. In October 1864 the Methodist Episcopal Washington Conference was organized. It was an administrative assembly formed entirely of African-American bishops and ministers to oversee black churches in the region. On the eve of emancipation, October 31, 1864, Bishop Levi addressed the assemblage, including a young minister by the name of John R. Tolson, a former slave from Virginia: "Ninety Thousand of your brethren...will lie down tonight with the manacles of Slavery upon them, but when the midnight hour shall strike, even as the angel came and unloosed Peter, and he arose a free man, so shall their chains fall off, and these thousand shall rise to the dignity of free men."

The Rev. John R. Tolson organized a congregation in Sharpsburg in 1865. By Christmas 1866, the little log chapel on High Street was completed and services for the 25-35 communicants began in

earnest. Among the first group of chapel trustees was Wilson Middleton, a veteran of the 115th Regiment, Company F, United States Colored Troops or USCT, stationed in the District of Rio Grande in Texas through 1865. The Tolson's Chapel cemetery, where Middleton's military stone marks his grave, is the only record of the chapel's congregation. Among those buried there are Jeremiah Summers, former slave on the Piper Farm, and Hilary Watson, former slave on the Otto Farm. Later burials include Harriet Calaman, teacher at the Sharpsburg Colored School; Clarence Monroe, house carpenter and veteran of WWI; and Virginia Cook, known and loved by Sharpsburg residents, who was the last member of the Tolson's Chapel congregation.

Tolson's Chapel is located at 111 East High Street. To learn more, visit www.tolsonschapel.org.

As part of Black History Month, the Sharpsburg Library has a display set up about Tolson's Chapel for the month of February.

Community News

Sharpsburg Historical Society to host program on Midwives in the 1800s

The Sharpsburg Historical Society will host a program about midwives and childbirth in the 1800s. The February 29 meeting will be held at Town Hall and will begin at 7:00pm. Shanna Mastrangelo, Certified Professional Midwife (CPM) of Birthroot Midwifery, Shepherdstown, will present a history of midwifery and its use and practice in the 19th century.

The program is free and open to the public. For more information, call 301-992-9767.

Volunteers Sought for Historic Newcomer House Exhibit and Visitor Center at Antietam National Battlefield

The Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area seeks volunteers for the 2016 season at the historic Newcomer House, the Heritage Area's Exhibit and Visitor Center at Antietam National Battlefield.

Volunteers handle daily operations at the house, including orienting visitors to the three-county Heritage Area and providing information about heritage tourism opportunities in the vicinity. No specific knowledge or skills are required, though an interest in Civil War history is encouraged. A volunteer training will take place on Saturday, March 19, followed by an optional familiarization tour on Wednesday, April 6. Volunteers will also receive mentor training on-site during regular visitor hours.

The Newcomer House is open seasonally: weekends only in April, May, October and November and daily, June-September. Volunteers are expected to work a minimum of six hours per month during the summer season. Public programs take place approximately one weekend per month. During the National Park Service Centennial in 2016, Antietam will host a number of special programs that volunteers may wish to work.

The Newcomer House, located at 18422 Shepherdstown Pike in Keedysville, is one of only two historical homes on the battlefield open to the public. Its location along the Antietam Creek and astride the Boonsboro Pike made the house a center point of thriving mill complex in the late 18th and early 19th centuries. Joshua Newcomer owned the property during the Battle of Antietam in September 1862, the bloodiest one-day battle in American history. It has been restored to its Civil War era appearance following the Secretary of Interior's standards.

A cooperative agreement between the Antietam National Battlefield, the Hagerstown-Washington County Convention and Visitor's Bureau and the Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area allows for programming, management and maintenance of the Newcomer House. It is the official Visitors Center for the Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area, which encompasses portions of Washington, Frederick and Carroll Counties. Three exhibit rooms explore the major themes of the heritage area: In the Heat of the Battle, On the Home Front, and Beyond Beautiful.

Those interested in volunteering should contact Newcomer House coordinator Rachel Nichols: 240-308-1740 or rbknichols@gmail.com

Thank you from the Brethren Church

On behalf of the Church of the Brethren, we wanted to thank everyone that supported our Bazaar and Bake Sale in November. Between townspeople, friends and out of town attendees, we had great success. Hope to you at the next Bazaar in November.

- Darlene Albritton

American Legion Post 236 delivers smiles and goodies to Sharpsburg Elementary School

The American Legion Post 236 once again had the pleasure of giving oranges and candy canes to the students and employees of Sharpsburg Elementary School. Dale Lewis, Corky Crist, Ernie Wetterer and Lawrence Hoffman enjoyed chatting with the well-behaved students. So many said "thank you", "Merry Christmas" and some even thanked the men for serving their country in the military. They are so funny to watch, some would smell their orange and comment on how good it was. Do you remember getting an orange when you were there as a child? No one knows exactly when this started, or who started it, but they will continue this worthwhile project as long as possible.

- Darlene Hoffman

Sharpsburg Bible Church ladies attend Women of Faith Conference

Eleven ladies from the Sharpsburg Bible Church travelled by van to the Women of Faith – Loved, the Farewell Tour, in Fairfax, Virginia. This is the Women of Faith's 20th year. We were entertained and

enlightened by women who have gone through some very rough times, but know that God was there and helped them through it all. Some of the speakers were singers and authors. It helped us all realize how blessed we are. 5,000 people attended this event at the old Patriot Center. Many a tear was shed, but many a laugh was heard too, especially when the camera would scan the audience during breaks... some people really love their "15 seconds of fame." It gave all eleven of us time to bond even more. We had a great leader and a courageous driver...or we were the courageous ones! The only problem was there were a couple of us who were afraid of heights and we had seats in the "nose bleed" section, but a great view. After a while, I actually untied myself from my seat. It was like a pajama party, staying overnight and enjoying good food both for the body and soul.

We may do more of these activities...just let us know if you would like to be a part of our group, we'd love to have you! God Bless!

- Darlene Hoffman

Antietam Lodge No. 197 A.F. & A.M.
Keedysville, Maryland



To Boonsboro High School Seniors

Antietam Lodge No. 197 A.F. & A.M., Keedysville, Maryland offers an annual \$500.00 scholarship which may be awarded to a qualifying graduating Senior. The Antietam Lodge Scholarship Committee will send the scholarship award to the Financial Aid Office of the institution of the student's choice.

Applications will be judged upon the following criteria:

1. Community and school activities (leadership and participation)
2. Resume content
3. Academic record (GPA, transcripts, etc.)
4. Financial need
5. Completed evaluation by school official (principal, guidance counselor, teachers)
6. Any Masonic affiliation (past or present family member)
7. Appearance and completeness of the entire application

Completed applications should be collected by the Guidance Office by March 1st. A representative from Antietam Lodge will pick up all completed applications on March 10th. Awards will be presented during a June Lodge meeting. Information about the meeting will be provided prior to the meeting. Questions regarding the scholarship can be directed to: Matthew Kalons, Secretary (301)824-2267 or mjk1021@myactv.net.

Happenings at the Sharpsburg Library

Books with Baby (Birth-24months)

March 10th at 2:30pm

Rhymes, finger plays, songs and activities for mom to share with baby

Lego Club

March 5th at 10am

Try the building challenge, or come up with your own design!

Minecraft Night

March 2nd

6:00pm-7:00pm for ages 8-10

7:00pm-8:00pm for ages 11-18

Registration is required. Call 301-432-8825. Space is limited.

Movie Night

March 3rd at 6pm

Bridge of Spies, rated PG-13.

A historical drama set during the cold war. Starring Tom Hanks and directed by Steven Spielberg

No School Movie!

March 23rd at 4pm

Goosebumps, rated PG

A teenager works with the author of the Goosebump series and his daughter to return the monsters back to the Goosebump books where they belong.

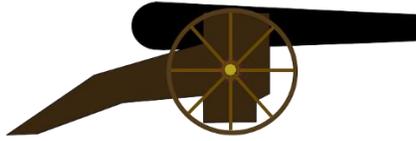
Special Program:

March 10th at 7pm

Battlefield Angels: The Daughters of Charity Work as Civil War Nurses

James Rada Jr will speak about the Daughters of Charity and their work in and around Sharpsburg after the Battle of Antietam. The Daughters of Charity were the only trained nurses in the country at the start of the Civil War. They treated the wounded and sick on the battlefields, in hospitals, POW camps and on floating riverboat hospitals.

Battlefield Advisory Committee



- The Historical Preservation Training Center began the first phase (in-stream work) of the Burnside Bridge project in October. The crews excavated the piers, beginning with the western or Confederate one, and learned that both were very unstable. They installed ribbon foundations around both piers, and also excavated and reinforced the bridge walls. The work crews had almost finished this phase of the project, when the January snowstorm, and then the rain, ended their project.
- Several personnel changes have taken place this winter. Between November and February, there were four retirements and two promotions. In the late spring or early summer, Antietam Battlefield will hire a coordinator for its volunteer programs.
- Several projects will get underway when the spring weather arrives. A National Park Service Centennial Challenge grant will fund the reconstruction of the National Cemetery's central walkway. Work crews will repair and paint the park administration building. The return of better weather also will allow the completion of the Joshua Newcomer barn's siding, roofing and flooring.

- Perry Jamison

Town Government

Town Office – 301-432-4428

Hours of Operation: Monday-Thursday 8:30 am – 1:30 pm

Zoning Administrator hours: Tuesdays 10:00 am – 6:00 pm

Additional hours for the Clerk and Zoning Administrator are available by appointment

Mayor and Council

Hal Spielman – Mayor	301-432-6854
Bryan Gabriel – Vice Mayor	301-432-2478
Ed Beeler – Councilperson	301-800-6877
Darryl Benner – Councilperson	301-991-2230
Brenda Gabriel – Councilperson	301-432-2478
Brandon Smith – Councilperson	301-491-4866
Russ Weaver – Councilperson	301-432-5907
Kimberly Fulk – Town Clerk/Treasurer/ Tax Collector	301-432-4428

The Sharpsburg Town Crier
PO Box 368
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