

Town of Sharpsburg

Town Crier



Volume 25 January 2015 Number 1

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 meeting of the Sharpsburg Mayor and Council was called to order at 7:03pm by Mayor Hal Spielman. Clerk of the Circuit Court, Dennis Weaver swore in Bryan Gabriel as Vice Mayor and Ed Beeler and Brandon Smith as Councilpersons. Darryl Benner was unable to attend the meeting and he will stop by Mr. Weaver's office to be sworn in.

The minutes of the December meeting and the December Treasurer's report were both approved.

Public Comment

Meredith Poffenberger of the Marketplace of Sharpsburg approached the Council in regards to receiving a Cease and Desist order to close her business from Zoning Administrator, Howard Long. Ms. Poffenberger and the owner of the property, Jeffry Hull, failed to meet the requirement of paving the parking lot at the business within one year, as was stipulated in the Board of Zoning Appeals hearing from October, 2013.

Ms. Poffenberger asked the Mayor and Council if she could remain open and have an extension to pave the parking lot.

Town Attorney, Brian Kane, informed Ms. Poffenberger that the Council could not make that decision, as they cannot override the law. She would need to follow up with Howard Long, Zoning Administrator, to see what steps she would need to take in regards to opening the business again. Mr. Kane stated that the permission for Ms. Poffenberger to use the property as a commercial space was revoked when the parking lot requirement was not met and at this point, she would need to reapply to obtain a new zoning permit to operate.

Ms. Poffenberger had voices of support from the audience, as well as voices of opposition.

Mr. Kane offered to discuss the process with her at the conclusion of the meeting, along with the different types of zoning requests.

Committee Reports

Parks and Railroad Station – The Trail Refurbishment Grant has been approved and the next step is to order the amenities. Kimberly will take care of ordering in the next few weeks.

Building – Nothing to report

Streets – A tree has fallen in the alley off of West Antietam Street that goes to West High Street. Bryan will get it cut up to clear the alley

Planning and Zoning – Meeting is January 20th at 7pm. This is a meeting to get established with the new members.

Battlefield Advisory Committee – 2014 was a quiet year at the Battlefield. Burnside Bridge took a beating with the weather and is still being worked on.

Public Safety – Nothing to report

Mayor's Report – The Mayor had the pleasure of attending the Dignitary Open House and Dedication of the new Fire Department Building on December 14th. He presented a donation to the Fire Department at that time.

Old Business:

Legion Building – Brandon contacted a Structural Engineer, who is planning on walking through the building to see what steps would need to be taken to bring the building back to a usable condition. At that time, it will be determined if a written report would be beneficial.

Christmas Decorations – It was remarked how nice the square and Town Hall looked with the Christmas decorations. It was suggested to send a “thank-you” note to the inmates, as they were responsible for the decorating. Kimberly will get this sent to them.

Grants – Russ and our Intern, Brady, have been making progress working through the grant information that was provided by Steve Goodrich. Once we meet with the structural engineer, we will get a better idea of which grants would be the most appropriate to apply for.

New Business

2015 Meeting dates – April's meeting falls on “Easter Monday” and September's meeting will fall on Labor Day. It was decided to keep the April meeting on April 6th and to move the September meeting to the following Monday, September 14th.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:16pm. The next meeting will be held February 2nd.

Town News

There will be a parade meeting on Wednesday, February 11, 2015 at 7pm at Town Hall. If you are interested in assisting with the planning and organization of the Memorial Day parade, you are encouraged to attend.

Calling All Snow Angels



If you would be willing to lend a hand to your neighbors that are unable to shovel their sidewalks, please contact Kimberly at 301-432-4428. We are in the process of compiling a list of those that are willing to assist so that we may contact you in the event of snow.

Community News

Sharpsburg Historical Society to hold first meeting of 2015

The Sharpsburg Historical Society will hold its first meeting of the New Year on January 28, 2015 at 7:00pm on the second floor of Town Hall.

Steve Recker will present the history and story of O.T. (Oliver Thomas) Reilly, born in 1857, who became a guide at the Antietam National Battlefield when he was 15 years old. He was also a reporter, publisher and a dealer in Civil War artifacts, with his business located on Main Street in Sharpsburg. Recker is a historian and author and has been researching Reilly, the Civil War and Sharpsburg for two decades.

The program is free and open to the public. For information, contact Vernell Doyle at 301-992-9767.

- Vernell Doyle

Members of the American Legion Unit 236 distribute oranges at the Sharpsburg Elementary School



Members from left to right: Ernie Wetterer, Lawrence Hoffman, Dale Lewis and Corky Crist

In December, American Legion Unit 236 had the pleasure, once again, of giving oranges and candy canes to the students, faculty and staff, of Sharpsburg Elementary School. This has been a tradition for over 60 years and the men never tire of participating. The gratitude and friendliness of these young people make it all worthwhile. From pre-kindergarten to fifth grade, there were calls of “Merry Christmas” and “thank you!” everywhere, never a negative remark or attitude to be found.

-Darlene Hoffman

Vacation Bible School Balloon Release



At the conclusion of Vacation Bible School, held at the Sharpsburg Bible Church, the participants release helium balloons, with a return card attached. This is always a fun time, not only for the children, but for the adults as well. Having your card returned makes the event even more special.

This year, two unusual events happened. One balloon was just now found in the Hancock area. Another balloon was found in Virginia, by a gentleman that was visiting for a business trip. This gentleman was from Australia! He took the time to write to the church from his home in Australia to let us know about it. It certainly was a thrill for all involved.

We would love to have you join us for this and many other lessons, activities and events. Check out our new website at www.sharpsburgbiblechurch.org for all of the details.

- Darlene Hoffman

Community Events

Movie Night at the Sharpsburg Library

The Sharpsburg Library will be showing "The Good Lie" starring Reese Witherspoon and Sudanese actors Arnold Oceng, Ger Duany, Emmanuel Jal and newcomer Nyakuoth Weil, on Thursday, February 5, 2015 at 6pm.

The film is based on a group of children referred to as "The Lost Boys" who were orphaned by the Civil war that began in Sudan in 1983. These orphans traveled as many as a thousand miles on foot in search of safety. Fifteen years later, a humanitarian effort would bring 3600 lost boys and girls to safety in America.

The film is rated PG-13 for thematic elements, violence and drug use.

Town Government

Town Office – 301-432-4428

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

Office of the Zoning Administrator: Tuesdays from 10am-6pm, additional hours 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

The Sharpsburg Town Crier
PO Box 368
Sharpsburg, MD 21782



