

# *Town of Sharpsburg*



## *Town Crier*

**Volume 26**

**January 2017**

**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.**

Members present: Mayor Hal Spielman, Vice Mayor Russ Weaver; Councilpersons Ed Beeler, Darryl Benner, Michael Carr, Brandon Smith and Tamara White. Kimberly Fulk Town Clerk/Treasurer/Tax Collector was also present.

Dennis Weaver, Clerk of the Circuit Court, swore in Mayor Hal Spielman and Councilpersons Michael Carr and Tamara White.

Mayor Spielman called the meeting to order at 7:03pm. The minutes of the November meeting were moved for approval by Russ and seconded by Ed. The motion carried. The November treasurer's report was moved for approval by Darryl and seconded by Ed. The motion carried. The December's treasurer's report was moved for approval by Russ and seconded by Ed. The motion carried.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE C.A.W.A.T. GROUP'S USE OF THE OLD BP SIGN**

Mayor Spielman asked Dwayne Harris, one of the founding members of the Veteran Group Come All Who Are Thirsty for an overview of their intentions, for those that were not at the last meeting. Mr. Harris stated that the group has the blessing of Steve Hull from Ewing Oil to put their logo on the BP sign and to maintain that sign and the area around the sign (i.e. keeping it free of trash, etc.) Mayor Spielman asked for public comment. Ernie Wetterer stated that he is a member of the group and he wanted to state that the group is a very worthwhile group and that they are the only veteran support group in South County. He stated again that they are very worthwhile and they do a lot of good work. There were no additional public comments.

Russ asked Mr. Harris about a letter in writing from Mr. Hull. Mr. Harris stated that he called and emailed on multiple occasions, but other than Mr. Hull's initial email, granting the permission, they have not been able to obtain any other documents. Russ stated that the town could help with that.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no public comments

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Parks and Railroad:** Brandon stated that he has been in touch with Michael Cushwa of the Department of Natural Resources and the pond has been added to their list of bodies of water to evaluate; i.e. test the water and evaluate and inventory the fish.

Lease agreement with the Antietam Railroad Station: Russ stated that the organization has received our lease extension agreement and they are looking it over. It is not due for renewal until October 2017.

**Building:** The roof has been completed and the first payment has been sent.

Darryl suggested purchasing a chair caddy so that the folding chairs can be stored and moved easier. Prior to purchase, Darryl would like to go to Laber's and see if they have one that we can purchase for cheaper than a brand new one. Brandon will check on the one they have at his church and take measurements to make sure it will fit in our elevator and in the back room.

Darryl suggested looking into purchasing a camera system for Town Hall. It was questionable as to if we would want one that records or one that is viewing only. Darryl will check pricing on both types and look into who could install it.

**Streets:** The State Highway Administration made repairs to Main Street and corrected the sinkhole issue in the square. Sharpsburg is on the list to have Main Street completely re-done within the next 2 years.

**Planning and Zoning:** Mr. Vincent has volunteered to join the Planning Commission. Anyone else that would like to join, please let us know and we will get an organizational meeting together within the next 30 days.

**Battlefield Advisory Committee:** Perry Jamison reported that the committee met last week. He provided Kimberly with the notes for the Crier. He stated that the Burnside Bridge project is complete. This year is the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Antietam National Cemetery. This celebration will take place September 16 and 17. The battlefield is also re-evaluating tour stops along the tour road, with the possibility of adding additional stops and/or wayside exhibits.

**Public Safety:** Mr. Wetterer informed the Mayor and Council that the BP station will be getting 2 monitoring wells to replace the two that were damaged during the excavation.

Boonsboro Mayor Howard Long told Mayor Spielman that possibly February the Mayor and Council can sit down with him and the Boonsboro Police Department to discuss the possibility of coverage for us.

**Mayor's Report:** Nothing to report

### Old Business

The snow plowing bids were opened in public forum on December 6<sup>th</sup>. B&B Automotive was awarded the bid for one year, with the option to renew for two additional years.

### New Business

Legion Building – The building has been broken into again. Brandon stated that he would take a look and take care of the issue.

The meeting was adjourned to closed session to discuss legal matters/potential litigation at 7:35pm by Ed and seconded by Darryl. The motion carried. The closed session was moved to open session by Russ and seconded by Tamara at 9:30pm. At 9:31pm Ed moved to adjourn and Michael seconded the motion.

## Mayor and Council members sworn in at January meeting



**Dennis Weaver (center) Clerk of the Circuit Court swearing in Councilpersons Tamara White and Michael Carr** **Mayor Hal Spielman being sworn in for his fourth term as Mayor of Sharpsburg**

On January 9, 2017 at the meeting of the Mayor and Council, new councilpersons Tamara White and Michael Carr and Mayor Hal Spielman were sworn in to office. Dennis Weaver, Clerk of the Circuit Court, swore in all parties. The new members were elected during the municipal election that was held on November 15, 2016. The members will each serve a four-year term. Congratulations to these individuals. We look forward to working with you.

### *Welcome Victory Garden Ranch*

In December, Victory Garden Ranch, a veterans wellness center, opened its doors for the first time. Located in the square at 101 West Main Street (beside Jefferson Security Bank) Victory Garden Ranch offers a safe place for veterans to gather and offer support to each other and is intended to fund the nonprofit organization, Come All Who Are Thirsty, a group that the owners, Beth and Dwayne Harris, started in 2013 to bring veterans and their families together with meetings and outreach programs. To help fund the center, Victory Garden Ranch also sells products created by local residents with a veteran connection. Some examples of their wares are Mountaineer Popcorn, candles from the Canal View Candle & Barrel Co, Black Dog coffee and a wide variety of flags. The center also sells essential oils to promote wellness.

The second floor of the building will soon offer therapeutic classes, such as painting and crafting, to veterans, first responders and the general public. Counseling will also be added. Movie nights for the public and a photography studio are also in the works.

Victory Garden Ranch is open Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 12:00pm-5:00pm. Stop in and say hello and see all that they have to offer.

For more information on the nonprofit Come All Who Are Thirsty, visit [www.comeallwhoarethirsty.org](http://www.comeallwhoarethirsty.org).

## Town News

### Town Meetings

Town meetings are held on the first Monday of each month at 7pm in the council chambers of Town

Hall. All town meetings are open to the public.

## **TOWN OFFICE CLOSURES**

The Town Office will be closed on Monday February 20<sup>th</sup> in observance of President's Day.

### **150<sup>th</sup> Memorial Day Parade Meeting**

There will be a parade meeting on Tuesday February 21, 2017 at 10am at Town Hall. All are welcome!

## **Community News and Events**

### *Sharpsburg Historical Society to offer Scholarship*

The Sharpsburg Historical Society is pleased to announce that it will offer the Sharpsburg Historical Society Scholarship of \$1,000. Applications will be available to Boonsboro High School graduating seniors planning to pursue a career in history, historic preservation, museum studies, or natural resource studies. For further information, call 301-432-8410.

### **Maryland Municipal League Scholarship**

The Washington County chapter of the Maryland Municipal League is offering a \$1,000 scholarship to a Washington County graduating senior. Applications are available at Town Hall and at the guidance office of Boonsboro High School.

### **Battlefield Advisory Committee**

The committee met on Wednesday January 4, 2017.

In 2013 Antietam National Battlefield and Monocacy Battlefield began a joint study of the deer on their lands, and the animals' effect on crops, trees and other growth. The study concluded that both sites have populations that are too large for their land area. Monocacy Battlefield has begun a deer reduction program. The state of Maryland has certified Antietam to do the same and its effort will begin later this month, or in February.

Antietam Battlefield's present tour route dates to 1992, and since then the park has gained a number of properties and added many trails. Last summer the staff began work on a Visitor Access and Circulation Plan, a study that would take into account the changes since the early 1990s and consider how the experience of today's visitors could be improved. On November 17, 2016 about forty citizens attended an open house on this plan, held at the Visitor's Center. The staff now will take ideas gained from the public at that meeting, through the internet, and elsewhere, and prepare a draft plan. This document

will address questions like where more trails should be created in the park, and where major access places (“tour stops”) should be added or expanded.

In December 2016 the Burnside Bridge renovation project was completed and this battlefield landmark was reopened to visitors shortly before Christmas.

## **Events at the Sharpsburg Library**

### **Movie Night**

**February 8th at 6pm – *The Light Between Oceans***, rated PG-13 – A lighthouse keeper and his wife, living off the coast of Australia, raise a baby that they find in a drifting row boat.

### **Craft Rewind at 10am (ages 4-6)**

**January 28<sup>th</sup> & February 25<sup>th</sup>** – Bring an adult and do a craft together. Materials provided

**Black History Month** – For the month of February, Friends of Tolson’s Chapel will have a display in the library in honor of Black History Month. Tolson’s Chapel on East High Street in Sharpsburg, was a spiritual and educational center of a vibrant community of African-American families for 132 years. The chapel and adjoining cemetery have been restored to preserve and interpret the Chapel’s significant history in the community.

**Come in out of the cold!** Every Wednesday for the month of February, enjoy a cup of hot tea or hot chocolate while browsing the books and enjoying the display for black history month.

# Town Government

Town Office – 301-432-4428

Hours of Operation: Monday-Thursday 8:30 am – 2:00 pm

Zoning Administrator hours: Tuesdays 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

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

## Mayor and Council

Hal Spielman – Mayor	301-432-6854
Russ Weaver – Vice Mayor	301-432-5907
Ed Beeler – Councilperson	301-800-6877
Darryl Benner – Councilperson	301-991- 2230
Michael Carr – Councilperson	301-991-6988
Brandon Smith – Councilperson	301-491-4866
Tamara White – Councilperson	301-432-7754
Kimberly Fulk – Town Clerk/Treasurer/ Tax Collector	301-432-4428

The Sharpsburg Town Crier  
PO Box 368  
Sharpsburg, MD 21782



