

Town of Sharpsburg

Town Crier



Volume 24 June 2015 Number 6

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 7:00pm by Mayor Hal Spielman. The minutes of the May meeting and the May treasurer's report were both approved as submitted.

Public Comment

Jean Harne was present to question concerns in regards to Personal Property Tax and her concern with businesses that are not currently paying the tax. Kimberly informed her that as Tax Collector, she is aware of this situation and is working with the Assessment and Taxation Department to rectify this. Ms. Harne was also questioning citations that are given to ordinance violators, and was questioning if this is a complaint driven process or if the Zoning Administrator is able to give these violations as he sees a need. Mayor Spielman informed her that they can be either/or. She was also questioning whether Mr. Long keeps records/files of citations and violations, to which she was told that he does.

Meredith Poffenberger is questioning who is responsible for the ditch/gulley/storm water drain that runs along the Marketplace of Sharpsburg. This is the responsibility of the State Highway Administration.

Ernie Wetterer was present in regards to the continuous water runoff problems that he is having in front of his property on East Main Street. He spoke again to the State Highway Administration and they stated that they signed off on the street scape back in the 90's with the town and that the town would need to contact them in regards to possibly fixing the issue. Kimberly will get into contact with them.

Committee Reports

Parks & Railroad Station: The inmates have been working to install the benches and trash receptacles around the square and the park. They have installed the new picnic tables at the park. A trash can was added at Pete's Tavern to help with the litter around that area. Darryl is still working to get a quote on re-surfacing and re-painting the basketball court. We may be able to apply for a grant to assist with this process. Still need mulch for the park, but only a half load. Kimberly will check into this.

Building: Brenda stated that the back wall behind the chairs is in need of painting. It was discussed and decided to have a chair rail placed to match the rest of the walls in the council chambers. Brandon will get an estimate for this. There is a lot of ivy growing on the back of Town Hall. Bryan will have the inmates take care of this

Streets: A sink hole was discovered in Big Spring Alley. This was promptly blocked off and repaired by

Jeter Paving.

Planning and Zoning: There will be no BZA meeting this month. The Planning Commission is working to complete the Comprehensive Plan by September. Russ Weaver officially removed himself from the BZA. He will remain as council liaison to both commissions.

Battlefield Advisory Committee: Perry Jamieson addressed Mr. Weaver's questions in regards to the O.T. Reilly monument and the battlefield's place on the care of this monument. Mr. Jamieson stated that the monument is private property and he will check with Superintendent Trail to see if this is something the battlefield could take care of, or if the descendants of Mr. Reilly can go to the battlefield and take care of the monument personally. Mr. Weaver was questioning if there is any reference to McConnell's Blvd, which runs behind the train station, and if not, can some signage be placed along the route. Meredith Poffenberger stated that there is reference to this on the wayside sign in front of the art gallery on the Shepherdstown Pike, but nothing on the actual trail. Mr. Jamieson said he would ask at the Battlefield Advisory meeting about the possibility of obtaining signage.

Canal Towns Partnership: Nothing to report

Public Safety: Nothing to report

Mayor's Report: Nothing to report

Old Business

1. **Legion Building:** Brandon has been in contact with a draftsman in regards to pricing out digital drawings, so that these may be obtained to go forward on the Legion building project. He has not gotten a response, but will continue to call in order to get this finished.
2. **East Chapline Street Extended Project:** Frederick Seibert has completed the drawings on the proposed project, which includes eliminating a water run-off issue and the possibility of curbs on the street. Estimated cost of the project will be around \$45,000. Kimberly will set up a meeting with the residents and a representative with Frederick Seibert so that it can be discussed with them.

New Business

1. **Budget:** Darryl suggested that a separate meeting be scheduled so that the budget can be gone over and discussed. A meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, June 10th at 7:30pm for this purpose.
2. **Flags:** The flags will be taken down as soon as the weather cooperates. If the weather is fit on Tuesday, Bryan will have the inmates take them down.

The meeting was moved to closed session to discuss legal matters by Bryan at 7:52pm and was seconded by Ed.

The meeting returned to open session at 8:46pm and was moved to be adjourned by Bryan and seconded by Ed.

Town News

Town Office and Zoning Administrator Office Closures

The Town office will be closed Monday, June 29th and Tuesday, June 30th.

The office of the Zoning Administrator will be closed on Tuesday, June 30th.

From the Desk of the Zoning Administrator

I would like to thank the people of Sharpsburg for mowing and cleaning up their properties for the Memorial Day holiday. For those that did not, Chapter 16, Article 2 of the Town ordinance states that the property owners MUST NOT allow such vegetation to grow more than 12 inches. The ordinance states that said growth needs to be cut to a height not to exceed three (3) inches.

There have been some concerns with residents having chickens on their property. Due to the historical nature of the Town, chickens will be tolerated, but will NOT allow roosters. Roosters can be a nuisance. This ordinance is under Chapter 4, Section 16: Nuisance Animals; It shall be unlawful to keep any animal deemed a public nuisance as provided by this Ordinance.

There is also an ordinance regarding burning leaves, paper, straw, or other loose material in the Town limits. This is not allowed! Please respect your neighbors and others around the area and abide by this ordinance. This is a hazard within the town limits.

Article 5 Section 518 Home Occupations. There have been in-home occupations started within the Town Residential district of the Town. You need to apply for a Special Exception and appear before the Board of Zoning Appeals in order to have your business.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 301-432-4428 on Tuesdays between the hours of 10am-6pm. A copy of the Ordinances can be obtained at the Clerk's office at Town Hall, in the library and may also be found online at www.sharpsburgmd.com, should you desire to view the documents personally.

Howard Long
Zoning Administrator

Community News

Local Author Publishes Civil War Novel

The Sharpsburg Historical Society introduces Alexander Rossino's new book *Six Days in September: A Novel of the 1862 Maryland Campaign* on Saturday, June 27th from 10 am to 1 pm, in the Sharpsburg Town Hall, 106 East Main Street, Sharpsburg. Rossino will talk about the book; copies will be available for purchase.

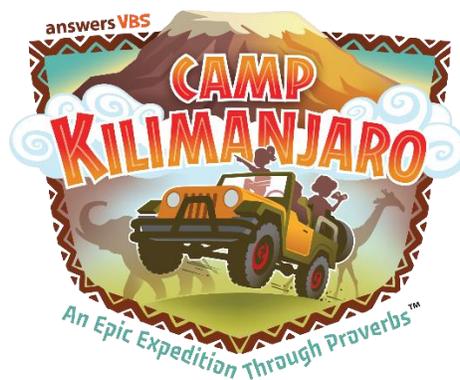
The historical novel follows General Robert E. Lee's struggle against the Federal forces during the final week of the confederate invasion of Maryland. As the armies approach Sharpsburg, a local pastor and his nephew face the menace of military occupation and the threat of the town's destruction. The soldiers of Lee's army face starvation and the terror of combat.

Rossino's interest in the Civil War dates from his childhood introduction to the *American Heritage Picture History of the Civil War* that his grandfather shared with him. *Six Days in September* is the result of that interest and his formal academic study that culminated in a PhD in history from Syracuse University.

Rossino and his wife live in Washington County, not far from the battlefield that is the setting for his first novel.

For more information, contact Vernell Doyle at 301-992-9767.

Bible School at Sharpsburg Bible Church



Bible school will be held at the Sharpsburg Bible Church, located at the corner of Potomac and Antietam Streets, June 22 through June 26 from 7:00 pm- 8:30 pm. A closing program will be held during church service on Sunday, June 28th. Classes will be offered for children ages 3 thru 13. An adult class will also

be offered. There will be snacks, crafts and games for all! The first \$150 collected in offering will be donated to the Musonda's National Missionaries in Zambia Africa.

Sharpsburg Bible Church; rich in history, love and laughter



Pictured from l to r: Jeff Renner, Pastor Gene Renner, Erma Renner and Daughter Kathy

Pastor Gene Renner and his wife Erma (teacher, pianist, etc.) have served at the Sharpsburg Bible Church for over 38 years... they must be doing something right! (believe me, they are!) Daughter Kathy works with the youth and is in charge of church meals. Son Jeff serves as an usher and construction leader on the new addition. The church has served this area for 143 years; buildings have been located on North Potomac Street, Main Street and now at the corner of Potomac and Antietam Streets. They originally shared a circuit rider minister. Two members, Ralph Jamison and Harold Ebersole, both retired ministers, have attended all three buildings.

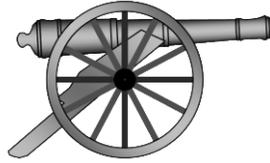
God's word is preached stuffed full of love and laughter. Would you like to see what they look like now? Come on down to the church any Sunday morning, evening or Wednesday evening.

For Memorial Day, the church had a slide show with photos of members who have served or are serving in the military. The altar was decorated beautifully and the choir sang *God Bless America*. Some tears were shed as we remembered the ones who died to protect our freedoms.

We would love to have you visit. Visit our website at www.sharpsburgbiblechurch.org for times and information, or call 301-739-1882.

- Darlene Hoffman

Battlefield Advisory Committee



This year the Antietam National Battlefield moved its National Cemetery Memorial Day observance program from Saturday to Monday. The ceremonies began at 11 am and were well attended. Former U.S. Army Chief of Staff General (ret.) Gordon Sullivan spoke to an audience of about 250.

The Historical Preservation Training Center, operating from Frederick, will begin repairing the Burnside Bridge during the week of July 13. The HPTC's first priority will be instream work, including refurbishing the piers. During this effort the bridge will be fenced off, probably until November. The HPTC crews will return in the spring of 2016 for a second phase of work, which will include restoring the bridge's walls and coping.

Several major renovation projects are underway around the battlefield, including at the Private Soldier's Monument ("Old Simon") in the National Cemetery; the terra cotta roof of the Observation Tower on Bloody Lane; the roof of the National Cemetery Lodge Building (the "Old Castle"); the John Otto house; the New Jersey monument; and the continuing restoration of the Joshua Newcomer barn.

- Perry Jamieson

Sharpsburg Library Events

Summer Reading Club, *Every Hero Has a Story*, In Full Swing

It's not too late to sign up for the summer reading club! The club is open to children birth through 5th grade. There is also a program for adults too! See Barb or Donna in the library to sign up for this fun reading adventure or for further information.

Summer Reading Club Photo Contest

All participants of the Summer Reading Club, ages 18 or younger, are eligible to participate in a photo contest. Enter a photo of yourself reading a library book this summer and you could win a family gift pack that includes a \$50 gift card to the Leitersburg Cinemas. See Barb or Donna in the library for more details.

SHARPSBURG LIBRARY TO HOST CIVIL WAR MEDICINE DISCUSSION

On Thursday, June 25th, Dr. Gordon E. Dammann, founder of the National Museum of Civil War Medicine in Frederick, Maryland will discuss medical techniques of the 1860's. He will also discuss the birth of a medical evacuation system, field hospitals and medical supplies. The discussion will begin at 7:00 pm.

Town Government

Town Office – 301-432-4428

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

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

Mayor and Council

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| 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 |
| Kimberly Fulk – Town Clerk/Treasurer/ Tax Collector | 301-432-4428 |

The Sharpsburg Town Crier
PO Box 368
Sharpsburg, MD 21782

