



The SHARPSBURG TOWN CRIER

VOLUME 21

March 2011

NUMBER 3

COUNCIL NEWS

These minutes are not the official minutes, nor are they a complete review of the business conducted. Requests for a copy of the complete minutes may be requested from the town clerk.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30pm by Mayor, Hal Spielman. Those present included: Mayor Hal Spielman, Vice Mayor Bryan Gabriel; Councilpersons Darryl Benner, Cathy Hull, Jennifer Silbert and Brandon Smith. Town Clerk/ Treasurer Kimberly Fulk was also present.

Dennis Weaver, Clerk of the Circuit Court swore in Jennifer Silbert as the new councilperson and she took her new post.

The minutes of the February 2011 meeting were read and reviewed. Brandon moved to accept the minutes and Darryl seconded the motion, with all ayes for approval.

The treasurer's report was reviewed. Darryl moved to accept the report and Bryan seconded the motion, with all ayes for approval.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Jean Harne of 118 East Main Street was present to voice concerns about the trees that are in front of her property. Her Bradford Pear tree was destroyed, and another tree of

IN THIS ISSUE

Worship Information	Page 3
Announcements	Page 3
Bulk Trash/Brush Pickup	Page 3
Community News	Page 4
Battlefield Advisory	Page 4

the same was supposed to have sprouted up in its place. She states the new tree is not a Bradford Pear; in fact, it has thorns growing from it. She would like John Leaf of the Maryland Forestry Department to take a look to see if this can be removed. Ms. Harne also states that the Crabapple tree in front of her property has ivy growing all over it and she would like that removed. Third, she has two cedar trees near her alleyway and door to her business that she has not planted, but has just sprouted up. She would like permission to have those removed. Mayor Spielman informed her that she can have those removed.

Vernell Doyle of the Sharpsburg Historical Society thanked the Mayor and council for allowing the society to move the headquarters to town hall. They have gotten their materials moved over from the previous location and are now working on organizing them.

Steve Kemmet of Captain Bender's Tavern was present to ask the council to allow him to place a table in front of his establishment again this year. He states that he would like to place just one table out front this year instead of the three that he has placed out in the past. Bryan stated that he thought when he was granted his special exception

to have a seating area in the rear of the building that he was not permitted to have the front tables. Mayor Spielman said that he would look into this. Granted there is nothing stated in the Board of Zoning Appeals decision, Darryl moved to allow him to place a table out front and Brandon seconded the motion, with all ayes for approval. Mayor Spielman will let Steve know if there is a problem with the decision.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Parks and Railroad Station – There will be port-a-pots placed at the park and the pond for the spring and summer. Kimberly will call and get this set up with Charles Mayes. The park is in desperate need of mulch. Hal will order 2 truckloads of playground mulch. Brandon has yet to hear about the estimates for fencing around the park. He will make additional phone calls and get these in by the next meeting.

Building – Brandon has not heard back from his contact regarding a cost to fix the missing bricks on the municipal building. He will get this by the April meeting. Hal will check with the company working on the Grove House to see if they will look at it as well, and provide another estimate. Elevator contract – Bryan suggested possibly finding a new company to service the elevator, in place of Eastern Elevator that we currently have. The cost seems steep for what they are supposed to be doing.

Other companies will be researched to possibly replace them.

Fire Alarm System – Simplex Grinnell, the company that we currently use to maintain the alarm panel, is requesting that we renew our contract with them. Currently the cost of this is \$1,500.00 per year. Darryl suggested staying with them since they installed the system and knows about it. Mayor Spielman instructed Kimberly to pay the bill to renew the contract.

Streets – Darryl noted that the sidewalk at Nutter's is getting a huge dip in it, and if people are not careful, they could possibly break an ankle. Mayor Spielman stated that sidewalks are the responsibility of the property owners, and that a letter would be sent regarding this issue.

Darryl also noted that some of the curbs in the town are getting pretty bad. Bryan stated that this is a pretty expensive process and that the town had someone put in 35-40 feet of curb and it cost about \$7,000. It was the consensus of the group to make a list of the areas of town that are in need of repair and possibly work from that a little each year.

Bryan also mentioned that the alleys are getting overgrown with bushes, trees and brush and that if you drive through some of them, it scratches up your vehicle. Notice will be put in the crier asking property owners to please maintain these areas of their property near the alleys and to please cut back the debris further than the alley and up to 8ft high. If owners do not maintain these areas, notices will be mailed to each individual owner.

Planning and Zoning – Brian Kane has received the growth element portion of the Comprehensive Plan, but to our knowledge, nothing else.

Battlefield Advisory Committee – Mr. Jamieson was unable to stay for the meeting, but provided a list of what was discussed for Kimberly to put in the crier.

Archives – the historical society will be in town hall on Wednesdays from 9am-8pm, and other hours by appointment.

Safety – Nothing to report. Since it has been a while since anyone has reported on this, Jennifer will call.

Town Attorney – Brian was not present at the meeting.

Mayor's Report – Comcast is changing some of its digital programming. Comcast customers will receive notification of this in their next bill. Potomac Edison (formerly Allegany Power) can no longer get the mercury vapor lights that are currently being used in the street lights in the town. They will need to change the light bulbs to either high pressure sodium lights at \$20/month, per fixture, or \$13/month per fixture for metal highlight bulbs. The metal highlight bulbs are an amber glowing bulb and the high pressure sodium are a white glowing light. The council will take a look at

the different bulbs in the town and see which they prefer.

Old Business Bulk trash pickup – JP Phillips of Apple Valley sent over 4 options for a bulk trash pickup. It was felt by the council that the best option would be to have the bulk pick up on a regular trash day. Townspeople would set out their trash and bulk items at the same time and two trucks would be by, one to pick up regular trash and one to pick up the bulk items. The council would like to have this on April 13th. Kimberly will check with JP to make sure that this will work for his crew. It will be published in the crier and also posted at the local businesses and in front of town hall.

Brush pickup – Hal spoke to Willow Run Farm and they have agreed to perform the brush pick up for the town at the same cost as before. This will be done April 30th. Townspeople are asked to place brush at the end of their yards near the alleys in the town and the company will pick it up. If townspeople have no alley behind their property, they are to place it at the curb and it will be picked up. This will also be posted in the crier, in local businesses and in front of town hall.

Change in County Permit Form – in response to there being a question about townspeople possibly needing surveys when applying for a building permit, the county office has added "The measurements provided for this application are the sole responsibility of the property owner and the Town will not be held responsible for any inaccurate or incorrect information." To the application. It was felt that this would be a good addition, but was suggested by Darryl that Kimberly contact Brian Kane, just to make sure that it would cover the town from a legal aspect. Kimberly will email Brian.

Back room – Since the Historical Society will be using the back room as their headquarters, something will need to be done to hide the storage materials. Brandon will price out the cost to possibly build a wall with a door, so that the materials can be placed and it be locked.

Bussard Annexation – there is a public hearing scheduled for 7:00pm on April 4th.

New Business

There will be a parade meeting on March 14th at 7:30 pm.

Keys for town hall – it was discussed and decided that if organizations wish to use town hall, they would now be required to come and see Kimberly ahead of time to pick up keys.

Jennifer moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:00pm and Cathy seconded the motion, with all ayes for approval.

WORSHIP INFORMATION

The following is a list of churches in the area that would love for you to worship with them.

SHARPSBURG BIBLE CHURCH

Rev. Gene Renner
5134 General Stewart Court
Sharpsburg, Maryland 21782

Sunday School: 9:30am
Worship Service: 10:30am and 6:00pm
Wednesday Worship Service: 7:00pm

SHARPSBURG BRETHERN CHURCH

Rev. Tom Fralin
120 East Main Street
Sharpsburg, Maryland 21782

Worship Service: 10:00am
Children's Sunday School: 10:30am
Adult Sunday School: 11:00am

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Rev. Mark Wastler
www.stpaulssharpburg.org
209 West Main Street
Sharpsburg, Maryland 21782

Worship Service: 10am

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Rev. Delancy Catlett
117 West Main Street
Sharpsburg, Maryland 21782

Worship Service: 9:00am
Sunday School: 10:00am

SHARPSBURG LUTHERAN CHURCH

Rev. Karen Valentine
201 East Main Street
Sharpsburg, Maryland 21782

Sunday School: 9:00am
Worship Service: 10:00am

NEW HOPE CHURCH OF CHRIST

Elders: Bob Fraley and Eric Johnson
1800 Davis Lane
Fairplay, Maryland 21733

Worship Service: 9:00am

Town Hall Announcements

We have noticed that it is becoming very difficult to drive through some of the alleys in the town. This is due to brush, trees and debris growing from the yards of townspeople into the alleyways. We are asking property owners that have property to an alley, please cut back this debris past the alley and up approximately 8 feet. This will facilitate traffic flow through the alleys without damage to vehicles. Thank you for your cooperation.

Bulk Trash Pick-up

The town will be having a bulk trash pick-up on April 13th. These items will be picked up at the same time as your regular trash collection. Items for bulk trash pick-up will need to be set out on April 12th, beside your regular trash. Two trucks will be through town, one to pick up regular trash and one for your bulk items. The following are UNACCEPTABLE bulk trash items:

- Paint—unless it is completely dried out
- Soil, rocks, sod, tree trunks, limbs, or stumps resulting from tree removal
- Parts of motor vehicles
- Poisons, acids, gasoline, oil and other flammable substances, explosives, ammunition, or other hazardous or dangerous materials
- Bricks, blocks, concrete in any form

Please call town hall if you have questions or concerns regarding the bulk trash pick-up.

Brush Pick-up

Brush pick-up has been scheduled for Saturday, April 30th. If you have brush that you would like picked up, make sure it is at the edge of your yard in the alleys. If you do not have an alley behind your property, place the brush out front by the curb and it will be picked up.

The policy for reserving and using town hall facilities has changed. Effective IMMEDIATELY, organizations that are scheduled to use town hall will need to see Kimberly Fulk, Town Clerk, to obtain keys. NO EXCEPTIONS! If you have questions regarding this, please call Kimberly at town hall during normal business hours.

COMMUNITY NEWS AND EVENTS

SHARPSBURG HISTORICAL SOCIETY HEAD- QUARTERS NOW AT TOWN HALL

The Sharpsburg Historical Society has moved their headquarters to the second floor of town hall. Originally they called the second floor of the Armory their "home", but we are happy to have them a part of town hall.

The headquarters features various tax rolls, books, leaflets and memorabilia that have been found throughout town hall or graciously loaned or donated by the people of Sharpsburg.

The headquarters is open on Wednesdays from 9am-8pm, or by appointment by calling 301-992-9767.

The society is doing a great job of documenting and displaying pieces of Sharpsburg history. If you have old papers, documents or memorabilia that you would like to share, donate, or allow to be scanned or copied, contact Vernell Doyle at 301-992-9767.

Sharpsburg Heritage Festival Steak Feed

The Sharpsburg Heritage Festival is sponsoring a steak feed on Saturday, March 19, 2011 at the Conococheague Sportsman's Club, located at 17150 Canal Road, Sharpsburg. Doors open at 5:00pm and Dinner will be served at 6:00pm. Tickets are \$15.00 and are available at the Sharpsburg BP Station. You MUST have a ticket to attend. There are no sales at the door.

Apple Pie, Chevrolet and Freema- sonry

On April 2 all Masonic lodges within the state of Maryland will open for the public to inspect. This date was chosen since it will be the first Saturday following a three month advertising campaign to stimulate membership in our fraternity and to provide the public knowledge of masonry as well as dispel any of the rumors that have existed for a number of years about masonry and what goes on behind our tiled doors. The Open House is an opportunity for us to welcome the general public to our lodges and to give them the chance to see and hear about the good work we do in our communities through the generosity of our members and coordinate bodies.

Sharpsburg Town Crier February 2011

Miss Maryland 2011, Allyn Rose will be on hand to sign autographs and to take pictures during the afternoon.

We have entitled our event, "Apple Pie, Chevrolet and Freemasonry have made America Strong"; therefore, we are showcasing 6 decades of Chevrolets as a vintage car show to highlight the many interests of our Masonic fraternity.

The lodge will be open from 2 until 6pm for our visitors. Tell your friends to stop by, see the lodge, ask about freemasonry and enjoy the food and festivities. Antietam Lodge 197 meets on the first and third Tuesday's of each month at their Masonic Temple located at 7 South Main Street in Keedysville. See our website for information and directions, <http://antietamlodge197.net/>

-Jeff Stouffer

SHARPSBURG HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The next meeting of the Sharpsburg Historical Society will be held on April 18, 2011 at 7pm at the Newcomer House, located east of the National Cemetery. This meeting is for members only.

If you would like to join the Sharpsburg Historical Society, contact President, Vernell Doyle at 301-992-9767. Those that join the society will receive a free one-year membership to the Washington County Historical Society, which includes free admission to their exhibits.

BATTLEFIELD ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The committee met on March 2, 2011 and discussed the following:

- * A vacancy announcement for the permanent superintendent closed on February 3, 2011. Until the new Superintendent is selected, Chief Ranger Ed Wenschhof continues to serve as the point of contact.
- * The road project resumed on March 3rd with south end gates to be removed at Rodman and Branch. There will be temporary road closures on those roads. Re-paving of the north end roads is scheduled to begin tentatively April 4th.
- * Maryland Symphony Orchestra Salute to Independence is set for July 2, 2011; however, we are discussing the budget and scope of this event. MSO has lost a major sponsor and the National Park Service contribution to the event will need to be greatly reduced. MSO has sent a letter to elected officials.

Town Hall Hours: Tuesdays 1:00pm-6:00pm,
 Wednesdays 9am-12noon and Thursdays
 1:00pm-6:00pm
 301-432-4428

Hal Spielman, Mayor 432-6854
 Bryan Gabriel, Vice Mayor 432-2478

COUNCIL

Mathew Barnhart 992-4335
 Darryl Benner 432-8331
 Cathy Hull 304-279-8440
 Jennifer Silbert 432-7984
 Brandon Smith 432-1941

TOWN OFFICIALS

Kimberly Fulk, Town Clerk 432-7466
 Debra Jamison, Tax Collector 432-6572
 Patti Hammond, Planning Com. 432-5965
 Anna Jamison, Election Board 432-6572
 Kimberly Fulk, Crier Editor 432-7466

TOWN ORGANIZATIONS

Am Leg. Aux. Ava Gift 432-6658
 Hist. Society Vernell Doyle 992-9767
 Mt. View Cemetery Jeff Saylor 432-2255
 Cub Scouts Michael Miles 432-0275
 Boy Scouts John Stewart 432-0564

CHURCHES

Brethren Lilly Grayson 432-6174
 Bible Rev. Gene Renner 739-1882
 Episcopal Carolyn Shaw 791-3357
 Lutheran Rev. Karen Valentine 304-676-9974
 UCC Melissa Reiff 465-9411
 Church of Christ Ed Beeler 240-625-5552

The Sharpsburg Town Crier
 P.O. Box 368
 Sharpsburg, MD 21782

Return Service Requested

SHARPSBURG
 Oldest Town in Washington County
 Founded July 9, 1763



Sharpsburg Town Hall

