



Town of Sharpsburg Town Crier



Volume 23

December 2013

Number 10

The minutes of the meeting of the Mayor and Council are an overview of the business conducted and are not the official minutes from the meeting. The official minutes can be obtained at the town office from the Town Clerk.

The meeting of the Sharpsburg Mayor and Council was called to order by Mayor Spielman. The treasurer's report from November was approved as submitted.

Committee Reports

Parks and Railroad: The railroad station will have an open house on Sunday, December 29th from 1pm-5pm. This will include an operating train display. Admission is free; donations are welcomed and appreciated.

Streets: Will need to check with an engineering company for East Chapline Street extended, so that property lines can be marked prior to curbs going in and prior to paving the road. This will be arranged prior to the spring.

Planning and Zoning: Will need to discuss a new zoning administrator in executive session. Due to work conflicts, the current zoning administrator is unable to fulfill the position.

Building: There is a broken board on the back steps. This will be marked off with caution tape until this can be repaired.

Battlefield Advisory Committee: No meeting in December.

Public Safety: Need to send a letter to the State Highway Administration in regards to the large pothole that needs repaired by the elementary school. We will look into a company that is able to install and monitor speed cameras, to see if one can be placed near the elementary school.

Old Business

Community Tree Lighting: This was held on Saturday, November 30th and was a success. Thank you to everyone that attended. Everyone seemed to have a good time.

New Business

Memorial Day Parade: Parade committee meetings will be held the second Tuesday of each month at 7pm at town hall. Anyone that would like to help organize the parade is welcome to attend.

The meeting was adjourned into executive session to discuss personnel issues. Upon completion of executive session, the meeting was moved back into public session and adjourned. The next meeting will be held on Monday, January 6th at 7pm.

Announcements

Change in trash collection schedule for remainder of December

The Christmas and New Year's holidays will affect trash collection. The new schedule is as follows:

Trash collection for the week of Christmas will be delayed by one day. Trash should be placed out for collection on December 25th for December 26th pick up.

Trash collection for the week of New Years day will be delayed by one day. Trash should be placed out for collection on Wednesday, January 1st for collection on Thursday, January 2nd.

Please make note that trash should be placed out for collection after 4pm the evening before collection. After collection, please make sure that your trash cans are placed off of the sidewalk and street as soon as possible. It is a safety hazard for receptacles to be left out, as the wind can sometimes carry them into the street and into the way of pedestrians.

TOWN OFFICE CLOSURES

Please make note that the town office will be closed on Tuesday, December 24th and Wednesday, December 25th. The office will also be closed on Wednesday, January 1st.

The town office will also be closed from Monday, January 13th until Monday, March 3rd. From Monday, January 13th until Monday, February 3rd, if you need assistance, contact Mayor Hal Spielman at 301-432-6854. After Monday, February 3rd, contact the clerk at 301-302-7347 for assistance.

If your group or organization needs the use of the town meeting room in town hall from Monday-January 13th – Monday, March 3rd, these reservations need to be made with the clerk PRIOR to Monday, January 13th. No room reservations will be made after this date, NO EXCEPTIONS! Room reservations can be called to the clerk at 301-432-4428, or via email at townofsharpsburg@comcast.net Reserving of the meeting room will resume on Monday, March 3rd.

Christmas Ornaments



Limited quantities of the town Christmas ornament are still available. The ornament features a drawing of the Big Spring by Sharpsburg artist, Annie Lemarie of Main Street Arts. The cost per ornament is \$5 and is available at town hall during normal business hours, or at B&B Automotive. Come get yours before they sell out!

Antietam Railroad Station Open House

The Antietam Railroad Station will hold an Open House on Sunday, December 29th from 1pm-5pm at the station located just past the pharmacy on the Shepherdstown Pike. The open house will feature an operating train display and is free admission, however; donations are welcomed and appreciated.

News and Events

Veteran's honored at Sharpsburg Bible Church

The Veterans were honored once again at the Sharpsburg Bible Church on Sunday, November 10. On this particular Sunday there were 10 veterans and two active military personnel (including minister's grandson) in attendance plus many members of their families. Pastor Gene's message that morning compared being in God's army with the US Army, which he also served in. The army says it will take care of you when you join and God does that and more. Right now our military is full volunteers the same as God's army, with Him the Holy Spirit as God's recruiter.

He mentioned a fond memory from years ago when the military would do a "fly-over" and a C119 Box Car would drop flowers during the Memorial Day parade held in Sharpsburg. What a sight that must have been. He closed by reading a letter he received about the church's support of the military after an article was in the newspaper in May. Then gave an invitation for anyone wanting to join God's army and hadn't yet to come forward.

- Darlene Hoffman

VETERAN'S HONORED IN SHARPSBURG



Standing in front of the Sharpsburg Viet Nam Memorial: Amy Fasulo-Morey, Army Recruiter for the Frederick Army National Guard and her father, Mike Fasulo, a Viet Nam Army Veteran

On Monday, November 11th at 11:00 a.m., Antietam 236 American Legion Family held Veterans Day Ceremony in Sharpsburg. The program began with the presentation of colors by the 167th Airlift Wing, Base Honor Guard from the West Virginia Air National Guard, Martinsburg, WV. The 4th and 5th grade students led those gathered in the Pledge of Allegiance. Boonsboro High School Soloist Etta Short sang the National Anthem acapella.

Ava Gift, who emceed the ceremony, explained the history and meaning of blue star banners and went on to explain that as the toll of war takes the lives of our American soldiers those blue stars turn to gold and are displayed to show that a family member died while serving their country. Gold Star Mother Brigitta Ecton has a gold star banner in her window in remembrance of her son Harry Ecton who was killed in Viet Nam in 1968; due to illness she was unable to attend the ceremony. Gift announced that on July 25th the Units other Gold Star Mother Whylmenia Knight passed away. Sympathy was offered to her family in attendance daughter Doris Shoemaker and granddaughter Tina Grimm.

Navy Veteran, Antietam National Battlefield Park Ranger spoke on the history and meaning of Veterans Day. A POW/ MIA black drape was placed on an empty chair in front of the podium for which Gift explained represented the 132,130 POW'S and 40,678 Missing In Action soldiers who have loved ones that have an empty chair at the table when celebrating a holiday - many times not knowing their whereabouts or whether they are dead or alive. To the veterans in attendance it represents missing comrades. The names and location of fourteen local soldiers were given and the crowd was asked to keep all military in their thoughts and prayers.

The approximately fifty veterans in attendance, including veterans from Somerford Place and Broadmore Senior Living, lined up and stepped forward as their service song was sung during the singing of the Armed Forces Salute by the Boonsboro High School Chorus, under the direction of Paula Boyd. Each veteran introduced themselves, told what branch of the military they served and during which conflict. Some shared enlightening and heartwarming information like the one that was a Viet Nam veteran with five sons serving in the military, one who is a Navy Seal, another said that the best thing that came out of WW II for him was that he met his wife of 67 years; another was a Rosie the Riveter. Each one received an ink pen with the inscription "Veteran thank you for the sacrifice that helped make

America what it is today - strong, proud and free!"

The Boonsboro Chorus sang patriotic selections followed by the presentation of memorial wreaths. Park Ranger Mannie Gentile laid a wreath on behalf of the Antietam National Battlefield; Bryan Gabriel on behalf of the town of Sharpsburg, Robert Glausier laid a wreath on behalf of Korean and Viet Nam War Veterans, Danny Brown and Howard Williams placed a wreath on behalf of the Disabled American Veterans Ralph Tag Chapter 14; Leonard Higdon and Stephen Heffner placed a wreath for Antietam Lodge 197. Laying a wreath on behalf of Antietam 236 Legionnaire Ernie Wetterer, Sons of the American Legion Eugene Rowe and Auxiliary Chaplain Darlene Hoffman. The 167th Airlift Wing presented the rifle salute followed by the playing of Taps. The Unit Chaplain then offered the benediction.

The program concluded with Gift thanking all those who participated and to all who attended.

- Ava Gift

Community Tree Lighting Event a Success

On Saturday, November 30th, the community came out to kick off the Christmas season by lighting the community Christmas tree, located in front of town hall. About 125 townspeople came out for the event, which featured Santa being delivered by the Sharpsburg Volunteer Fire Department, music that was performed by the Children's Choir of the Sharpsburg Lutheran Church and music that was provided by Todd Stotler of Echoes Recording Studio. The children were invited to visit with Santa, who looked pretty comfortable in a sleigh that he borrowed from Sharpsburg residents Joe and Suzanne Nalley. (I assume that he was afraid there would be no room for the reindeer to bring him here.) Much to everyone's surprise, The Grinch also made an appearance. He must still have his grown heart, because he didn't try to steal our tree or the goodies that Santa was passing out to the good boys and girls. Mary Fran Stotler was also on hand and was dubbed the "official" photographer for the evening. Everyone enjoyed hot chocolate, cookies and popcorn in the council chambers.

A very big "thank-you" to Santa Claus for taking time from his busy schedule to visit with us and the children, Joe and Suzanne Nalley for allowing Santa to use their beautiful sleigh, Todd Stotler of Echoes Recording Studio for providing sound and music to the festivities, Mary Fran Stotler for graciously allowing the town to use her beautiful photos of the evening, the Children's Choir of the Sharpsburg Lutheran Church for sharing their gift of song with us, the Sharpsburg Volunteer Fire Department for delivering Santa to the festivities, Brenda Gabriel, Darryl Benner and Ed Beeler for assisting with the activities for the evening and Russ and Becky Weaver, Matt, Allison and Caroline Weaver and Paul Fulk for the beautiful job decorating the town building and clock.

Everyone had a great time and it was a great way to start the Christmas season.

Crier Hiatus

The crier will not be distributed in January or February, 2014. Publication will resume in March.

Town Government

Town Office – 301-432-4428

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

Mayor and Council

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

Mayor, Vice Mayor and Council should be contacted through the Town Office, unless it is an emergency situation.

The Sharpsburg Town Crier
PO Box 368
Sharpsburg, MD 21782

