

Town of Sharpsburg

Town Crier



Volume 24 May 2014 Number 2

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 Mayor and Council was called to order at 7pm by Mayor Spielman. All members were present. The minutes of the May meeting were approved. The treasurer's report was unavailable for this meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ava Gift of the Antietam Auxiliary Unit 236 introduced Darlene Eichelberger, poppy chairman for this year. Ms. Eichelberger introduced Skylar Borum, this year's Miss Poppy; who then pinned the Mayor.

Meredith Poffenberger of the Marketplace of Sharpsburg was present to ask the council if she could have a Farmer's Market at the property. Mayor Spielman stated that this was not a decision to be approved by the council and that she would need to speak with the Zoning Administrator in regards to this, and would likely need to appear before the Board of Zoning Appeals to ask for this. Ms. Poffenberger was granted permission to use the property at 104 North Church Street to sell antiques, collectibles, crafts and handicrafts, but was not approved to use the property for any other use. Having a Farmer's Market in the parking lot of the Marketplace would require a zoning change; this process would begin with a statement in writing to the Clerk. Ms. Poffenberger was referred to contact Howard Long, Zoning Administrator for information and paperwork.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Parks and Railroad Station – Fishing Rodeo – This was held on May 3rd. 67 children enjoyed fishing and catching a total of 90 fish. The largest was a trout that measured 16 ½". Everyone had a great time.

Building – Russ will get in touch with Steve Goodrich in regards to grants that he was to be looking into for the old Legion building.

Streets – The Lutheran church would like to have the remainder of the curb in front of the church painted red. When people park there you cannot see oncoming traffic. This will be taken care of by the inmates

Planning and Zoning – Nothing to report

Battlefield Advisory Committee – No meeting held in May

Public Safety – Discussed under Streets

Mayor's Report – Mayor Spielman read the thank you note from the Friend's of Tolson's Chapel, thanking the Town for advertising in their booklet. The thank you note and booklet was passed around.

Old Business:

1. Chapline Street Extended – the Mayor met with Fred Fredericks of Frederick Seibert and Associates in regards to completing this road improvement project without placing curbs on the street. Mr. Frederick stated that stone could be placed on the right side of the street and a dip could be placed to channel the water away from properties. Kimberly will schedule a meeting with the Town, Mr. Frederick and the residents that this decision would affect.
2. Tax Rate for 2015 – it was decided to leave the tax rate at the current amount of .350 for real estate taxes and 0.875 for personal property tax. A 5% discount will still apply for taxes paid in July. 1% interest will begin to accrue in October.

New Business:

1. Miss Virginia Cook – Ms. Cook was a lifelong resident and was the last member of the Tolson’s Chapel congregation to pass away. It was disturbing to learn that Ms. Cook has no headstone on her grave in the Tolson’s cemetery. The town will begin a fund and accept donations to raise money to purchase a stone for Miss Cook. This will be placed in the crier and in the parade book.
2. Start time for meetings – the start time of the monthly meetings will go back to beginning at 7:30pm instead of 7pm.
3. Parade – The parade is May 24th at 1:30pm. The wreath laying ceremony will begin at 11am in front of town hall. Route 34 will be closed on the 24th from 11am-3pm for these festivities to take place. This will be placed in the crier, the newspaper and signs will be placed around town to alert people of this.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40pm. The next meeting will be held on Monday, June 2nd at **7:30pm**

Memorial Day Commemoration Activities



The annual Memorial Day commemoration activities will be taking place on Saturday, May 24th. The festivities will kick off at 11am in the square, with a wreath laying ceremony to honor those that served and are currently serving in our military.

The parade, the longest running parade in the nation, will step off from the Sharpsburg Elementary School at 1:30pm and will travel down Main Street, ending at the Antietam National Cemetery.

The Antietam National Battlefield will have their annual service in the Antietam National Cemetery at the conclusion of the parade, generally around 3pm.

Keep in mind that on Saturday, May 24th, the Main Street (MD 34) will be CLOSED from 11am-3pm. There will be no non-parade vehicles allowed on Main Street during these hours and you will not be able to cut across the street during the parade.

Trash Service Delayed for Memorial Day



Due to the Memorial Day holiday on Monday, May 26th, trash service next week will be delayed by one day. Trash will not be picked up until Thursday, May 29th, and should not be set out until Wednesday night.

Cemetery Headstone Fund Established

Many long-time residents of Sharpsburg remember Miss Virginia Cook very fondly. Miss Cook lived on West Chapline Street and was one of the friendliest people that you could ever meet. She was kindhearted, very giving and always wore a smile and a floppy hat. It was with great sadness that the Mayor and Council learned that dear Miss Cook was laid to rest in the Tolson's Cemetery in an unmarked grave.

The Town has now established the **Virginia Cook Memorial Headstone Fund**, to raise the funds necessary to purchase a headstone for Miss Cook. Donations can be mailed to the Town at PO Box 368, Sharpsburg, MD 21782. Please mark on your donation that it is to be used for the headstone fund.

We appreciate your kindness and willingness to honor this wonderful lady. Miss Cook would be so happy that you thought of her.

Community News

Annual Poppy Campaign Underway in Sharpsburg



Miss Poppy, Skyler Borum, 10 year-old daughter of Yoko and David Hoffman of Frederick, Maryland, presented Sharpsburg Mayor Hal Spielman with a poppy before the May 5 town council meeting.

The presentation was planned to coincide with the upcoming Memorial Day holiday and officially opened the annual poppy campaign of Antietam Unit 236 American Legion Auxiliary.

Skyler is the granddaughter of Antietam American Legion Post 236 Commander Lawrence Hoffman and Unit Chaplain Darlene Hoffman.

Darlene Eichelberger, this year's poppy chairperson, said the memorial poppy is never sold, but given in exchange for a donation. Wearing a poppy has come to mean honoring the dead and helping the living.

Town Welcomes New Zoning Administrator

Mr. Howard Long has joined the personnel at the town office as our Zoning Administrator. Mr. Long has office hours every other Thursday, beginning on Thursday, June 5th from 5pm-7pm in the Clerk's office. He can be reached at 301-432-4428. If he is unavailable, you can leave a message on the answering machine or with the clerk and he will return your call.

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

If you have a question or a problem, please contact the town office and not the Mayor or Council personally, unless it is an emergency.

The Sharpsburg Town Crier
PO Box 368
Sharpsburg, MD 21782

