

Town of Sharpsburg

Town Crier



Volume 24 October 2015 Number 10

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 held on Monday, October 5th at 7pm at the Antietam Train Station on the Shepherdstown Pike.

The minutes of the September meeting and the September treasurer's report were both approved as presented.

Keith Good from Frederick Seibert and Associates presented the Mayor and Council the changes/improvements that were made to the East Chapline Street Extended project.

Public Comments

William Wellman, President of the Hagerstown Model Railroad Museum welcomed the Mayor and Council to the railroad station and encouraged those in attendance to enjoy the museum at the conclusion of the meeting.

Committee Reports

Parks/Railroad: Mr. Wellman would like to set up some time to talk to the Council regarding the lease that the railroad museum has with the town. Members of the museum were questioning whether we could work together to obtain funding/grants for the roof, which is in need of repair/replacing. Bryan stated he may be able to get the inmates to help with repairs and/or painting of the roof until we can get a new roof.

Building: We are in need of someone to shovel town property in the event of snow. Bryan stated that we could add that on to the snow plowing contract for the year and then next year add that to the bid packet for snow removal. The council was in agreement with this.

Streets: The alley at 321 West Main Street appears to be causing issues with water in neighboring basements. This alley is an unimproved alley and has never been changed or touched. The Town is not able to make changes or improvements to the alley, but if the owner of the property would like to fix the water running into his basement, then he should bring a plan to the Mayor and Council to review and approve prior to any work beginning.

Planning and Zoning: Nothing to report

Battlefield Advisory Committee: Meeting October 14th

Canal Towns Partnership: Nothing to report; workshop October 15th

Public Safety: Police presence in town has been increased; Bryan has been speaking with Keedysville

and Boonsboro in regards to the possibility of sharing coverage, but no decisive talks have happened yet.

Mayor's Report: Nothing to report

Old Business: The Council still have zoning questions. Kimberly will get with Howard Long, Zoning Administrator to see if he can meet with the Council in regards to this issue.

There have been some concerns with trick-or-treat being on Halloween. The Council discussed again that they like to have it when neighboring municipalities have it, to avoid an overload of children in Town from surrounding areas. Trick-or-treat will remain on Saturday, October 31st from 6pm-8pm. Bryan will once again hand out the candy for the Town

New Business: Ownership of Methodist Cemetery on S. Hall Street – the correct owner remains somewhat of a mystery. Vernell Doyle of the Historical Society stated that they are working on a grant to restore some of the older cemeteries in Town and would like to include this one as well. Darryl stated that he would ask his church, the Sharpsburg Bible Church. Jean Harne was also present and offered to research this as well.

The Historical Society would like to clean the monuments in front of Town Hall. The Council suggested that Vernell gain permission from the American Legion, since they put the monuments in. Vernell stated she would contact Legion President, Lawrence Hoffman.

Town News

Trick-or-Treat



Trick-or-Treat will be held on Saturday, October 31st from 6pm-8pm. If you would like to pass out treats to the children, please turn your porch light on. Parents are asked to accompany their children while trick-or-treating, and to cross the street in the crosswalks.

Antietam National Battlefield to assist with cleaning Memorials

The Antietam National Battlefield has graciously offered to clean the memorials in front of Town Hall. This will take place on Friday, October 16th at 9am. The public is welcome to attend

to watch or lend a hand. Thank you to Sharpsburg Historical Society President Vernell Doyle for being instrumental in making this happen.

Annual Veterans Day Program to be held



The annual Veterans Day program will be held Wednesday, November 11th at 11am in the Town Square. Veterans are encouraged to attend and be recognized. The public is encouraged to attend to honor these brave men and women. The American Legion Auxiliary Unit 236 always does a wonderful job of putting on this program. We encourage all to attend!

**Please note that from approximately 10:45am-12noon, Main Street from the BP Station to Pete's Tavern will be closed. North and South Mechanic Streets will also be closed

Town Christmas tree lighting



The Town Christmas tree lighting has been scheduled for Saturday, December 5th at 7pm in the square. We hope that you will join us as we light the town tree, feast on cookies and ring in the holiday season with friends, family and neighbors.

Bring an ornament to place on the tree. We are hoping that Santa will be able to take a break from his busy schedule to hear the children's wishes. Last year, The Grinch made an appearance to show us that his heart really did grow! Perhaps he will appear again this year.

From the Desk of the Zoning Administrator

Town Ordinance: Chapter 18 Vehicles and Traffic; Section 4 page 18-3 Disabled Vehicles

- A.) It shall be unlawful for any person to permit, suffer or allow a vehicle owned and operated by that person to be left hanging upon a crane, chain, cable or blocked up from its own wheels at any time upon the streets and alleys within the limits of the Town, except for the purpose of changing a “flat” tire or in connection with immediate towing to a garage or other place for repairs.
- B.) It shall be unlawful for any person to permit, suffer or allow a vehicle owned or operated by that person to be parked or placed upon the streets, alleys or highways within the Town, if said vehicle is without a current valid registration, plates, or is disabled from operating under its own power. For purposes of this subsection, a vehicle is not disabled from operating under its own power unless the vehicle is parked or placed in one, or substantially the same location, for more than forty-eight hours.

Events at the Sharpsburg Library



The Famous Captain Bender of Sharpsburg with Sharpsburg Historical Society President, Vernell Doyle October 15th

Tour the Bender House at 111 West Chapline Street from 6:00pm – 6:45pm (open house.) At 7pm, come to the Sharpsburg Library, where Vernell will give a presentation about the C&O Canal, which was opened for trade to Cumberland on October 10, 1850. We encourage anyone with pictures or stories to share from the 74 years of canal operation, particularly about Captain Bender. Captain Raleigh Bender opened Bender’s Tavern in 1936. It is now one of the largest operating businesses in Sharpsburg.

**“My Life Amidst the Paranormal” by Cathy Gasch
October 22nd at 7pm**

Take a journey through haunted houses and ancient ruins across three different countries as Cathy discusses her book My Life Amidst the Paranormal. Cathy’s paranormal experiences have spanned over 50 years, during which time she has encountered mischievous ghosts, spectral apparitions and forgotten souls.

***Civil War Ghosts of Sharpsburg* by Julia Stinson Brugh
and Mark P. Brugh
November 5th at 7pm**

Join local authors Julia and Mark Brugh as they discuss their new book which contains more than twenty images that have not been previously published. The book also features twenty new stories of mysterious sightings and explains the creation of separate cemeteries for the Union and Confederate soldiers who died at Antietam.

Community News

Toys For Tots



The U.S. Marine Corp Reserve Toys for Tots Program is underway. Donations of new, unwrapped toys are accepted and are distributed to families that are otherwise unable to provide Christmas gifts to their children.

Donations can be dropped off at B&B Automotive, Monday-Friday from 8am-5pm.

Battlefield Advisory Committee



- The committee met on Wednesday, October 14th at 2pm
- The Historic Preservation Training Center, operating from Frederick, began the first phase of repair work on the Burnside Bridge during the week of October 12-16. Workers installed a cofferdam in the Antietam Creek, and next will work on the bridge's piers. This phase will take several weeks. Visitors can view and photograph the historic structure from a distance, but the bridge will be closed to pedestrians while work is being done.
- Workers will return in the spring of 2016 and begin the second phase of the effort, which will focus on the bridge itself, including its walls and coping.
- The next meeting will be held Wednesday, November 4th at 2pm

- Perry Jamieson

“The Truth About Heroin And Substance Abuse In Washington County”

There will be a Town Hall meeting on November 18th at Boonsboro High School titled “The Truth About Heroin and Substance Abuse”, “A Presentation of the Problem and a Dialogue about Solutions...”

Substance abuse treatment resource tables will be set up from 5:30-6:30 and 8:30-9:00. A panel presentation and community question and answer period will take place from 6:30pm-8:30pm. Seating is limited and is available on a first come first serve basis.

This is a great resource to help educate the community on this unfortunate growing problem and how you can make a difference!

For more information, contact Wells House at 301-739-7748 Ext. 208 or email at events@wellshouse.org

Town Government

Town Office – 301-432-4428

Hours of Operation: Monday-Thursday 8:00 am – 1:30 pm

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

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

Mayor and Council

Hal Spielman – Mayor	301-432-6854
Bryan Gabriel – Vice Mayor	301-432-2478
Ed Beeler – Councilperson	301-800-6877
Darryl Benner – Councilperson	301-991-2230
Brenda Gabriel – Councilperson	301-432-2478
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

