



"History Worth Fighting For"

**Shepherdstown Battlefield Preservation Association Inc.
ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES
December 30, 2017**

1. Call to Order – The 14th Annual Meeting of the Shepherdstown Battlefield Preservation Association Inc. (SBPA) was called to order at 1:00 PMPM.

2. Reading of the minutes of the 2015 Annual Meeting – The minutes of the 2016 Annual Meeting were emailed to all members prior to the 2017 Annual Meeting and Ed Moore moved that we dispense with the reading of the 2016 minutes; the motion was seconded by Sara Smith and was passed unanimously.

3. Treasurer's Report – Gary Capriotti presented the Treasurer's report. At SBPA's 2016 Annual Meeting on December 6, 2015, SBPA had a cash balance of \$6,675.66. Since then, funds from membership dues and donations amounted to \$5,980.09. The funds were used for legal expenses, battlefield land maintenance and miscellaneous expenses that amounted to \$9,054.99 resulting in a 12/30/2017 cash balance of \$3,600.76. Sara Smith moved that the Treasurer's Report be accepted subject to audit; Ed Moore seconded the motion which passed unanimously. *(Noteworthy, following the Annual Meeting we received several additional donations totaling \$900.)*

4. 2017 Review – Steve Alemar reviewed SBPA's activities in 2017. Due to a variety of circumstances 2017 was the least active year for SBPA fund raising. A planned book signing dinner was postponed because of various venue and publication delays. However, there were 6 battlefield tours that were requested by other organizations. Kevin Pawlak led 4 tours and Steve Alemar led 2 tours. We also participated in the Freedom Run foot race by distributing water to runners as they passed through the battlefield on River Rd. Special thanks to Jefferson County Historic Landmarks Commission Chairman Martin Burke for placing signs on River Rd that let runners know when they were entering and exiting the battlefield.

SBPA was involved in the replacement of the broken War Department sign at the Trough Rd and River Rd intersection.

We purchased and installed a monument dedicated to the friends and members of SBPA that gives special recognition to Ed Dunleavy's hard work as the founder and first president of our organization. Currently the monument is located on the north side of River Rd, but we be moved to a new location south of River Rd once the WV Highway Department installs the proposed parking pull off.



THE MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF THE
SHEPHERDSTOWN BATTLEFIELD PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION
SAVED THIS HALLOWED GROUND FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS
FOUNDER AND FIRST PRESIDENT — EDWARD E. DUNLEAVY

We received free mulch from several tree companies and used it to mulch most of the trails. We also extended the walking trail west from the large kiln by removing trees, debris and trash. We removed a significant number of downed trees that were threatening the area or were unsightly.

For the third consecutive year SBPA participated in the Civil War Trust's (CWT) park clean-up day on the Shepherdstown Battlefield. Trees were felled, barbed wire was removed, new fences were erected, old fences were reinforced, litter was collected and brush was removed. Seventeen SBPA members participated in the clean-up.

Also, SBPA donated \$2,000 to the JCHLC to aid in the removal of trees that were threatening to further damage the Cement Mill and kiln ruins.

We designed a new website (shepherdstownbattlefield.org) and expanded our presence on Facebook. Nieltje Gedney reports that we continue to get a significant number of hits on the website and on Facebook by individuals interested in our organization and our cause.

5. **Federal Legislation** – SBPA and the Jefferson County Historic Landmarks Commission (JCHLC) responded to Representative Mooney's staff regarding expansion of the Antietam National Battlefield to include the Shepherdstown battlefield. We are currently not pursuing the expansion since several large tracts of core battlefield are being considered for purchase by the Civil War Trust; this means that if the Shepherdstown battlefield becomes part of Antietam National Battlefield Park before the Civil War Trust purchases them, matching American Battlefield Protection funding is not available.

Moreover, when Federal funds are used to purchase battlefield property there is a requirement to remove all non-historic structures and install signs that acknowledge the source of the funds. Consequently, SBPA donated \$2,000 to JCHLC in 2017 to help pay for the removal of a house from battlefield property and will help purchase and erect a battlefield sign once the demolition is completed.

6. **Battlefield Land Purchases** - Martin Burke, Chairman of the JCHLC, reviewed the recent purchase of battlefield land. With funds from the CWT, and the American Battlefield Protection Program of the NPS, 11 acres of land within the core of the Shepherdstown site were purchased for \$380,000. The CWT deeded the Ehler property to the JCHLC. It is the intention of the JCHC to donate all purchased battlefield property to the ANBP when that park's boundaries are expanded. Since its inception in 2004, and with a significant effort by JCHLC, SBPA has helped save 343 acres of battlefield land. Martin Burke noted that expenses for the removal of non-historic houses will be high since it needs asbestos abatement and asked SBPA to help pay for some of those expenses.

Martin Burke also discussed efforts to gain support and recognition by the Corporation of Shepherdstown. JCHLC is preparing a presentation to the town council that will detail plans for creating a trail from the Tobacco Warehouse all the way to the existing battlefield trail. Moreover, there was discussion regarding the ramifications if the Shepherdstown Corporation expands the town limits to include the battlefield (e.g. would this mean expanding water and sewer along River and Trough Roads).

7. Legal Update – For the time being, the Board of Directors decided not to pursue any additional legal action against Far Away Farms.

8. 2017 Plan – Steve Alemar, enumerated some of the planned activities for the coming year. After much discussion, consensus was that we will have a river crossing on September 22, 2018. James Broomall is in contact with a reenactment organization (known as the “Liberty Riles”) that may participate in this event by portraying the 118th PA Corn Exchange Brigade. In addition, Sara Smith volunteered her barn as a venue for a dance or event.

SBPA also plans on again participating in the National Park Service’s “Park Day” clean up, with Martin Burke and JCHLMC coordinating the event at the Shepherdstown site. The date is set for April 7th, 2018, hence we will need volunteers.

We plan to participate in Freedom Run and will also have a table setup for the Earth Day event at Sam Michael’s Park on April 21st, 2018 (we will need volunteers to man the table).

9. Board of Directors Nominations and Election- Steve Alemar chaired the nominating committee for the Board of Directors (BOD). Steve Alemar stated that all members of the Board (Steve Alemar, Gary Capriotti, Ed Moore, Tom Clemens, Cindy Jo Feeser, Sara Smith, Nieltje Gedney, Kevin Pawlak Bob Reynolds, and James Broomall) agreed to be re-elected. Nominations were asked from the floor and none were made. John Doyle moved that nominations be closed; Karen Alemar seconded the motion and the motion was passed unanimously. The BOD was elected by acclamation.

10. Other Business – After discussion, Sara Smith moved (and Nieltje Gedney seconded) that we vote to change the Annual Meeting from December to September. Therefore, we will notify all current members and ask them to vote on this change (30 days notification is required by the organization bylaws).

Tom Clements and Sara Smith were volunteered to draft a document that will be used to solicit funds from a national known philanthropist to purchase core battlefield.

11. Adjournment –Martin Burke moved that the meeting be adjourned; seconded by Sara Smith which was passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 2:10 PM.