

June 9, 2022. Critical cooperation to preserve the Shepherdstown Battlefield.

The Shepherdstown Battlefield Preservation Association (SBPA) and our partner organizations are successfully preserving Shepherdstown Battlefield property. If new fundraising efforts are successful, the Far Away Farm in the core of the battlefield may be preserved by October 2022. At one time, a 152-home development was planned. And when that protection is achieved, a total of 622 acres of Battlefield land will be preserved along Trough, Engle Mollers and River Roads! The American Battlefield Trust created a map (below) showing the currently protected properties and the Far Away Farm (yellow).

At 7 pm on June 9 in the town Community Club, the SBPA hosted a meeting with 6 speakers describing Battlefield land preservation. Dr. Mike Nickerson, SBPA President, gave a warm welcome to battlefield supporters and introduced a fund-raising effort to assist with the Far Away Farm purchase. Next, Kevin Pawlak, author of Shepherdstown in the Civil War: One Vast Confederate Hospital, provided an overview of the Battle that occurred on September 19 - 20, 1862, following the Battle of Antietam. Tom Moore and Kathy Robertson, American Battlefield Trust, discussed public education as critical to battlefield protection. The Trust has worked for over 14 years to preserve the Shepherdstown Battlefield. They seek to protect battlefields from the Revolutionary War, War of 1812 and Civil War.

Jefferson County Battlefield preservation efforts were presented by Martin Burke, Director, Historic Landmarks Commission. These include managing the purchased Battlefield properties such as the Cement Mill Riverside Park and organizing Battlefield cleanup days. Elizabeth Wheeler, Director, Farmland Protection Board, discussed work with the Land Trust of the Eastern Panhandle and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service to implement and monitor conservation easements in the Shepherdstown Battlefield and other historic Jefferson County sites. Conservation easements provide landowners flexible methods for land protection.

The evening culminated with the Superintendent of the Antietam National Battlefield, Dr. Susan Trail, describing the National Park Service's Shepherdstown Battlefield Special Resource Study and its recommendations. Battlefield management by the Park Service is highly responsive to public comments and emphasizes public education and safety. Expanding the Antietam National Battlefield boundary to include Shepherdstown Battlefield property was a Study recommendation.

After 17 years of "History Worth Fighting For," it was great seeing friends, neighbors and battlefield supporters to hear about Shepherdstown Battlefield preservation. However, we need your help to reach our fundraising goal of \$100,000 to support the purchase of the Far Away Farm by October 2022. Tax-deductible donations marked 'FAF' will be used in their entirety for the Farm purchase and will receive a full year SBPA membership. Donations can be made using PayPal on Facebook or at <http://shepherdstownbattlefield.org/>, or by mail to the SBPA, P.O. Box 1695, Shepherdstown, WV 25443. Many thanks for your continued support to preserve the historic Shepherdstown Battlefield.



Dr. Mike Nickerson introduced the evening's speakers. He detailed the Battlefield Association's efforts on public education, member opportunities and fundraising to assist the purchase of the Far Away Farm.



Kevin Pawlak, author and historian, presented an overview of the Battle of Shepherdstown.



Kathy Robertson and Tom Moore of the American Battlefield Trust discussed public education about the Battle of Shepherdstown.



Martin Burke of the Jefferson County Historic Landmarks Commission outlined the management of Battlefield properties that have been purchased.



Elizabeth Wheeler of the Jefferson County Farmland Protection Board highlighted conservation easements as a method to preserve farmland and historic sites.



Dr. Susan Trail of Antietam National Battlefield, National Park Service discussed battlefield land management by the NPS and the historic events linking the Battles of Antietam and Shepherdstown.



Informal discussion and information tables before and after the presentations.



Maps of the Far Away Farm, Shepherdstown Battlefield and Jefferson County historic sites with conservation easements.

Participating organizations:

- **American Battlefield Protection Program, National Park Service**
- **American Battlefield Trust**
- **Antietam National Battlefield, National Park Service**
- **Jefferson County Farmland Protection Board**
- **Jefferson County Historic Landmarks Commission**
- **Land Trust of the Eastern Panhandle**
- **Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture**
- **Shepherdstown Battlefield Preservation Association**

AND:

- **Local Property Owners and Neighbors of the Battlefield**

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THESE ORGANIZATIONS!