

Draft

Age-Friendly Shepherdstown

## MINUTES

December 17, 2025

Attending: Marty Amerikaner, Charlotte Baker-Shenk, Marcy Bartlett, Leigh Ann Evanston, Jan Hafer, Stacey Kendig, Linda Spatig

- 1 We welcomed new committee Leigh Ann Evanston.
- 2 We unanimously approved November minutes.
- 3 Old Business
  - a. Bike Route. In regard to adding a few more sharrows and street signs, Marty reported that he was asked to discuss it at the upcoming December Public Works Committee. Also, Marty reported that he attended a meeting with Canal Towns representatives. He had the opportunity to discuss the development of the Shepherdstown Bike Route and its connection to the C&O Towpath.
  - b. Safety and Fall Prevention. Marty reported that as he understood it, the town is planning to identify places/individuals needing help with clearing ice and snow. Gino is coordinating this effort.

Marcy reported there is no news on the safety concerns related to the German St Railroad crossing.

Linda reported that she spoke with Linus, chair of the Shepherdstown Tree Commission, about the possibility of removing the bricks that have been placed in and around tree wells in the downtown area. He agreed that these were greater safety hazards than the tree wells with just dirt or other plants in them. Charlotte reported that this issue was discussed at the Tree

Commission meeting and that plans were underway to have the bricks removed.

- c. Hearing Accessibility. We discussed the problem of hearing accessibility in town meetings, or other public meetings, held in venues other than town hall. Jan agreed to draft a written script to provide for people leading public meetings in those venues. It would give explicit directions about how and when to use microphones so that the meeting would be more fully accessible.

We unanimously agreed that there should be no official town meetings held in any venue unless there are satisfactory hearing accessibility equipment and processes in place.

- d. Public Transportation. Linda reported there is no news on this effort.
- e. Action Plan Revision. Linda agreed to begin work on this in January, after the holidays.

#### 4 New Business

- a. AARP Community Challenge Grant. Linda explained the 2026 AARP Community Challenge grants and said that we may want to apply this year. Leigh Ann agreed to review the Challenge Grant guidelines and take the lead on putting together one or more proposals to submit. We discussed several possibilities including portable hearing equipment.
- b. Meeting Times. Linda agreed to poll committee members to find out if 1:30 pm on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month is still a good time to meet.
- c. Age-Friendly Plaque. Linda reported that the Plaque we were to receive was accidentally mailed to Alaska! She agreed to present it to the town at the first council meeting following her receipt of it.

#### 5 Next Meeting: January 21, 1:30 on zoom.

