

Minutes of December 8, 2020 Germantown Town Board meeting via Zoom, commencing at 7:00pm.

Present: Supervisor Beury  
Councilman Sullivan  
Councilman Kukon  
Councilmember Suarez  
Councilman Christian  
  
Town Attorney, Corinne Smith

Recorded by: Town Clerk, Joyce Vale

Supervisor Beury welcomed everyone and then Led with the Pledge to the Flag.

Motion to open the meeting made by Councilman Sullivan, seconded by Councilman Kukon, with all in favor and none opposed.

Motion to approve meeting minutes for November 10, 2020 made by Councilmember Suarez, seconded by Councilman Kukon, with all in favor and none opposed.

Motion to pay audited bills made by Councilman Kukon, seconded by Councilman Sullivan, with all in favor and none opposed.

There are no written communications to the Town Clerk.

### **Old Business**

- Climate Smart Program. No discussion in regards to the Climate Smart Program.
- Authorize Supervisor to sign necessary paperwork other than Application.

Motion to authorize Supervisor to sign necessary paperwork other than Application made by Councilmember Suarez, seconded by Councilman Christian with all in favor and none opposed.

- Appoint Task Force Coordinator.

TOWN BOARD  
TOWN OF GERMANTOWN  
COLUMBIA COUNTY, NEW YORK  
RESOLUTION APPOINTING A

### CLIMATE SMART COMMUNITY COORDINATOR

Dated: December 8, 2020

WHEREAS the Town Board of the Town of Germantown (“Town Board”) believes that climate change poses a real and increasing threat to our local and global environments and is primarily due to the burning of fossil fuels; and

WHEREAS the Town Board intends to pass a Resolution Adopting the New York State Climate Smart Communities Pledge at its regular meeting on December 8, 2020; and

WHEREAS the Town Board shall appoint a local community volunteer as Task Force Coordinator to serve as a point of contact for the Climate Smart Communities Program and facilitate implementation; and

WHEREAS the Task Force Coordinator shall serve as a liaison between the CSC task force and the chief executive officer and other officials of the Town of Germantown,

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that Town Board appoints Christina Bohnsack as Task Force Coordinator of the Town of Germantown CSC Task Force, to be responsible for coordinating the work of the CSC to complete the following ten elements:

- 1) Build a climate-smart community.
- 2) Inventory emissions, set goals, and plan for climate action.
- 3) Decrease energy use.
- 4) Shift to clean, renewable energy.

- 5) Use climate-smart materials management.
- 6) Implement climate-smart land use.
- 7) Enhance community resilience to climate change.
- 8) Support a green innovation economy.
- 9) Inform and inspire the public.
- 10) Engage in an evolving process of climate action.

Introduced by Councilman Sullivan, Seconded by Councilmember Suarez

The question of the adoption of the foregoing Resolution was duly put to vote, which resulted as follows:

Supervisor Beaury	Aye
Deputy Supervisor Sullivan	Aye
Councilmember Christian	Aye
Councilmember Kukon	Aye
Councilmember Suarez	Aye

This Resolution having been approved by a majority of the Board, the same was declared duly adopted this 8th day of December 2020.

Motion to appoint Christina Bohnsack as Task Force Coordinator made by Councilman Sullivan, seconded by Councilmember Suarez, with all in favor and none opposed. No discussion.

- Authorize Task Force Coordinator to complete and submit the Application for Local Champions Pilot by December 14, 2020.

Motion to authorize Task Force Coordinator to complete and submit the Application for Local Champions Pilot by December 14, 2020 made by Councilmember Suarez, seconded by Councilman Christian with all in favor and none opposed.

TOWN BOARD  
TOWN OF GERMANTOWN  
COLUMBIA COUNTY, NEW YORK  
RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE NEW YORK STATE  
CLIMATE SMART COMMUNITIES PLEDGE

Dated: December 8, 2020

WHEREAS the Town Board of the Town of Germantown (“Town Board”) believes that climate change poses a real and increasing threat to our local and global environments and is primarily due to the burning of fossil fuels; and  
WHEREAS, the effects of climate change will endanger our infrastructure, economy and livelihoods; harm our farms, orchards, and ecological communities, including native fish and wildlife populations; spread invasive species and exotic diseases; reduce drinking water supplies and recreational opportunities; and pose health threats to our citizens; and  
WHEREAS, we believe that our response to climate change provides us with an unprecedented opportunity to save money, and to build livable, energy-independent and secure communities, vibrant innovation economies, healthy and safe schools, and resilient infrastructures; and  
WHEREAS, we believe the scale of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reductions required for climate stabilization will require sustained and substantial efforts; and  
WHEREAS, we believe that even if emissions were dramatically reduced today, communities would still be required to adapt to the effects of climate change for decades to come,  
IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that Town Board of the Town of Germantown, in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to a changing climate, adopts the New York State Climate Smart Communities pledge, which comprises the following ten elements:

- 1) Build a climate-smart community.
- 2) Inventory emissions, set goals, and plan for climate action.
- 3) Decrease energy use.
- 4) Shift to clean, renewable energy.
- 5) Use climate-smart materials management.
- 6) Implement climate-smart land use.

- 7) Enhance community resilience to climate change.
- 8) Support a green innovation economy.
- 9) Inform and inspire the public.
- 10) Engage in an evolving process of climate action.

Introduced by Councilman Sullivan, Seconded by Councilmember Christian

The question of the adoption of the foregoing Resolution was duly put to vote, which resulted as follows:

Supervisor Beaury	Aye
Deputy Supervisor Sullivan	Aye
Councilmember Christian	Aye
Councilmember Kukon	Aye
Councilmember Suarez	Aye

This Resolution having been approved by a majority of the Board, the same was declared duly adopted this 8th day of December 2020.

- Appoint members to the Climate Smart Task Force.

The following individuals were appointed to the Climate Smart Task Force:

Christina Bohnsack- Coordinator  
 Adriana Balkan  
 Jan Borchert  
 Ann Marie Gardner  
 Claudia Keel  
 Tracy Martin  
 Matthew Mercier  
 Norman Mintz  
 Garrett Montgomery  
 Julia Shanbrom  
 Laura Sink  
 Rose Wax

Motion to appoint these individuals to the Climate Smart Task Force made by Councilmember Suarez, seconded by Councilman Sullivan, with all in favor and none opposed.

Supervisor Beaury said at the Re-organizational meeting on January 5, 2021 they will appoint a separate Chair of the Climate Smart Task Force.

- Update notice of status of Town facilities 12/16-12/31/2020.

Remaining status quo. Will change to a 30-day period after next Town Board meeting. Court may have to go virtual.

**New Business**

- Authorize Supervisor to sign the agreement with Pine Plains Veterinarians for 2021.

Motion to authorize Supervisor to sign the agreement with Pine Plains Veterinarians for 2021 made by Councilman Sullivan, seconded by Councilman Kukon, with all in favor and none opposed.

- Agreement between Town and Bard regarding Parsonage Dig and Artifacts. Supervisor Beaury said there is nothing in writing. We need an understanding how materials and the building are being used. The agreement is in process.
- Discussion regarding the formation of a Zoning Re-Write Committee in 2021. Supervisor Beaury explained that there is no money for the planner in 2021 but we can look into forming a committee. Councilmember Suarez would like to discuss the possibility of amendments to solar and short-term rentals. Supervisor Beaury agreed we can look into that, but he wants to talk to planners about spot zoning and will report back to the Board in February. Corrinne will work along with the planner. Councilman Christian and Councilman Sullivan are in favor. Councilman Christian asked if they could get a representative from the ZBA? Supervisor Beaury said that would be a good idea. Councilman Kukon asked if we could pay for a planner over a

few years? Supervisor Beaury said he will talk to planners and he would get back to the Town Board in February.

### **Supervisor's Report**

- Germantown Holiday Lights Tour, beginning December 12 through the season. Supervisor Beaury thanked and commended all the volunteers that are working on these holiday projects.
- Germantown Winter Glow, December 19<sup>th</sup> (rain date December 20<sup>th</sup>) 4:30pm-10pm.
- Closing on Sewer Bond on December 17, 2020. Supervisor Beaury said bond is payable through 2047. Borrowing \$1,822,000.00
- Year-end meeting December 29, 2020 at 6pm.
- Re-organization meeting January 5, 2021 at 6pm.

### **Comments from Councilmembers**

Councilman Sullivan said for the Holiday Lights Tour 31 addresses are signed up. All are posted on the website.

Start discussion about new highway pick-up truck. Supervisor Beaury said the board will talk about it at the year-end meeting. Rich is working with a dealership.

Councilman Kukon agrees with Councilman Sullivan in replacing the pick-up truck.

Councilmember Suarez said she sent out an email about both holiday events and posted on social media.

Councilmember Suarez also said the Parks Commission and the Library are doing a fund raiser selling ornament kits on December 12, 2020 from 10am to 1pm.

Councilman Sullivan said the tree in town looks great.

A resident asked if sewer rates are changing? Supervisor Beaury said there will be no changes to the sewer rates.

Councilmember Suarez, Councilman Christian and Lauren Williams worked on the Menorah.

Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Councilman Sullivan, seconded by Councilman Kukon, with all in favor and none opposed.

Meeting closed at 7:38pm.

Respectfully submitted,