

Minutes of August 10, 2021 Germantown Town Board meeting, held in the Germantown Town Hall, 50 Palatine Park Road, Germantown, New York and via Zoom, commencing at 7:22pm.

Present: Supervisor Beaury
Councilman Sullivan
Councilman Kukon
Councilman Christian

Town Attorney, Corinne Smith

Absent: Councilmember Suarez

Recorded by: Town Clerk, Joyce Vale

Supervisor Beaury welcomed everyone then Led with the Pledge to the Flag.

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

Motion to approve the July 13, 2021 regular meeting minutes and the July 27, 2021 workshop meeting minutes made by Councilman Sullivan, seconded by Councilman Kukon, with all in favor and none opposed.

Motion to pay audited bill for August 2021 made by Councilman Kukon, seconded by Councilman Sullivan, with all in favor and none opposed.

Written Communications to the Town Clerk

Town Clerk read a letter from Local Champions Program commending Christina Bohnsack.

Finance, update

Supervisor Beaury said we received the first half of the stimulus money and we will receive the second half next summer. Once we receive guidance a group will be formed to discuss priorities for spending.

Old Business

- Draft Solar Law. Next month.
- Motion to approve Shade Structure Resolution.

TOWN BOARD TOWN OF GERMANTOWN COLUMBIA COUNTY, NEW YORK

Dated: August 10, 2021

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF GERMANTOWN TO ADOPT A SHADE STRUCTURES POLICY FOR TOWN-OWNED PROPERTIES

WHEREAS, shade structures in public spaces provide relief for residents and pets during times of heat, protects the public from high-heat conditions and ultraviolet radiation, and provides a cost-effective method to help ensure the health and safety of its citizens; and

WHEREAS, aesthetically pleasing shade structures provide opportunities for social networking and public gatherings, and are particularly important for individuals that do not have access to air conditioning; and

WHEREAS, conserving existing forest cover and planting trees and green spaces can moderate temperatures and reduce the heat island effect; and

WHEREAS, the Town currently controls, operates, or manages developed parkland and recreational facilities where shade structures can and do already provide a public benefit; and

WHEREAS, shade structures such as trees, gazebos and covered outdoor facilities provide such protection, and the adoption of a shade structure policy better positions the Town to build and maintain shade structures and to obtain grants to provide such structures;

THEREFORE, be it Resolved,

THAT the Town of Germantown adopts a shade structure policy for Town owned properties that requires consideration of shade structures in all public places.

Town of Germantown Shade Structures in Public Places Policy

The Policy pertains to Town-owned properties and contains the following provisions:

- Priority be given to tree planting as a means of shade protection;
- When possible and practical, maximum protection of shade trees will occur;
- When replacing a mature tree, if possible two trees be planted, and when practical and possible three trees;
- When feasible, native species of trees will be provided as shade;
- Development projects on Town-owned properties integrate shade structures when and where appropriate;
- Consideration be given to provide shade structures when upgrades to existing properties is undertaken;
- Opportunities to install shade structures on Town-owned properties be evaluated;
- Areas on Town-owned properties that are particularly vulnerable to high heat be identified;
- When considering shade structures for a particular area, the Town seeks community input;
- Existing shade structures be assessed as to their suitability;
- Town Department Heads and community groups such as the Germantown Park Commission and Climate Smart Communities committee be engaged in making recommendations for implementation of the Policy;
- The Policy be incorporated into future comprehensive planning process;
- The Town Supervisor be charged with overseeing the implementation of the Policy;
- The Policy be reviewed every three years to assess its effectiveness.

On a motion by Councilman Sullivan and seconded by Councilman Christian and having been approved by a majority of the Board, this Resolution was declared duly adopted by the Town of Germantown Town Board.

Motion to approve Shade Structure Resolution made by Councilman Sullivan, seconded by Councilman Christian, with all in favor and none opposed.

- Motion to authorize the Supervisor to submit a Greenway Grant application.

Motion to authorize the Supervisor to submit a Greenway Grant application made by Councilman Christian, seconded by Councilman Kukon, with all in favor and none opposed.

- Motion to authorize the Supervisor to submit an Engineering Planning Grant request to EFC for funding of an "I and I" study of the sewer system. There is a match of 6k.

Motion to authorize the Supervisor to submit an Engineering Planning Grant request to EFC for funding of an "I and I" study of the sewer system made by Councilman Sullivan, seconded by Councilman Kukon, with all in favor and none opposed.

- Advertise opening for a Motor Equipment Operator. Councilman Sullivan asked if the Motor Equipment Operator will be required to have their CDL? Supervisor Beaury answered “yes” the Motor Equipment Operator will be required to have their CDL.

Motion to advertise for a Motor Equipment Operator made by Councilman Sullivan, seconded by Councilman Kukon, with all in favor and none opposed.

- Appoint two counselors to Summer Camp, Kaitlyn Stagno and Kili Eaton.

Motion to appoint Kaitlyn Stagno and Kili Eaton as counselors to Summer Camp made by Councilman Sullivan, seconded by Councilman Kukon, with all in favor and none opposed.

- Discussion about 5G towers. Town Board agreed to table this until next month.
- Discussion about hybrid meetings. Councilman Sullivan prefers committees doing this as well. Supervisor Beaury said Zoom solved an issue getting more people to participate at the meetings. Corinne said Town Board members can attend remotely but the location must be published. Supervisor Beaury recommended hybrid meetings for the committees.
- Discussion about Delta variant and masks. Supervisor Beaury said Columbia County suggested wearing masks even if you are vaccinated.

Corinne had written a resolution needed for the Greenway Grant application which she read:

**TOWN BOARD
TOWN OF GERMANTOWN
COLUMBIA COUNTY, NEW YORK
August 10, 2021**

WHEREAS, the Town of Germantown is applying to the Hudson River Valley Greenway for a grant under the Greenway Conservancy Trail Grant Program for a project entitled Roe Jan Park Improvement Project to be located in the Town of Germantown; and

WHEREAS, the grant application requires the applicant municipality to obtain the approval/endorsement of the governing body of the municipality or municipalities in which the project will be located.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the governing board of the Town of Germantown hereby does approve and endorse the application for a grant under the 2021 Greenway Conservancy Small Grant Program, for a project known as Roe Jan Park Improvement Project and located within this community; and be it further

RESOLVED, by the Town Board of the Town of Germantown that the Town Board declares itself lead agency for purposes of State Environmental Quality Review (“SEQR”) for the proposed project and hereby finds that the proposed project is a Type II action not subject to further review under SEQR.

Introduced by Councilperson Kaare Christian

Seconded by Councilperson John Kukon.

The proposed Resolution having been approved by a majority of the Board, the same was declared duly adopted by the Germantown Town Board.

New Business

- Motion to authorize the Supervisor to sign the Resolution to Join Municipal Group Self Insurance Program to provide volunteer firefighters workers’ compensation benefits through Columbia County and the Public Employer Risk Management Association.

Motion to authorize the Supervisor to sign the Resolution to Join Municipal Group Self Insurance Program made by Councilman Sullivan, seconded by Councilman Kukon, with all in favor and none opposed.

- Motion to authorize the Supervisor to sign the Notice of Election related to above.

Motion to authorize the Supervisor to sign the Notice of Election made by Councilman Kukon, seconded by Councilman Sullivan, with all in favor and none opposed.

- Discussion regarding the lease with the Sportsmen's Association. Fay Johnson was in the audience representing the Sportsmen's and said at this time they do not want to make any amendments to the lease. Fay also said they will be enforcing "no swimming." The public can use the beach, just stay out of the water. They just posted 2 more signs.

Supervisor's Report

- Budget process begins (FY 2022). Budget forms will be handed out to all department heads. Supervisor Beaury said at September meeting he will outline the budget process for the public.
- Activity Building visit by CC EMO and Red Cross. Supervisor Beaury and Councilman Christian met with Red Cross coordinator, John Vale and Columbia County director of Columbia County Emergency Management, David Harrison. They reviewed their previous discussion three years ago about how the building may be used in an emergency. Councilman Christian said they are very pleased with air conditioning in the facility but the limiting factors are the bathrooms which are not wheelchair accessible and there are no showers. Councilman Christian added we should try to improve this. Supervisor Beaury said they like our site because of the access to the main roads, the railroad and plenty of areas for a helicopter landing site. Supervisor Beaury said at this point we are not a shelter, just a warming and cooling center. Councilman Kukon asked if getting the bathrooms to meet standards something we should be doing? Supervisor Beaury said the beach house bathrooms are the only ones that meet the ADA. If a grant is available we should make an application.
- Supervisor Beaury suggested Red Cross training at the Activity Building to pair with Active Shooter Training. He said more to follow.
- Purchase of an AED for the Activity Building. Supervisor Beaury said there is AED in the Town Hall but not the Activity Building the cost is about \$1,200. The Town Board agreed to purchase.
- Scenic Hudson Webinar, August 26th 7-9pm.
- 20th Anniversary on 9/11 will be held at 9:00am at the Town Hall.
- Next meeting is September 14, 2021 at 7:00pm.

Comments from Councilmembers

Councilman Kukon would like to thank the Town of Livingston for helping our highway guys with the intersection at Dales Bridge Road.

Councilman Christian would like to thank the whole Climate Smart group for all they have done.

Comments and questions from the public

Genette Picicci said she was here to talk about a recent letter from the Columbia County Department of Health. Genette read her letter, which the Town Clerk has on file in her office. Genette wondered why this letter hadn't come up at any of the Town Board meetings. Supervisor Beaury said that he would talk to Sam about this matter. Councilman Sullivan suggested to ask the Columbia County Health Department to test the water because of Genette's concern.

Christina Bohnsack mentioned next Tuesday's water chestnut cleanup at Cheviot.

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

Meeting closed at 8:02pm.

Respectfully submitted,