

History Advisory Committee
Dec. 18, 2021

Attendance: Marisa Hayes, Tony Albino, Alvin Sheffer, Melora Kuhn, Richard Coons, Donald Dubac, Tom Shannon

- November's meeting was cancelled last minute due to Tom being sick.
- Oral history project: Rev. James Lindsley is scheduled for mid January.
- Hover grant for a First Reformed Cemetery Monument: working with Kol-Rocklea Memorials on the design. There is room for 5-6 words per line and 8-10 lines on the bronze plaque. Scheduled for early spring installation. Progress report due to the Hover Foundation in late January.
- Hover grant for kiosks: the plan, made in conjunction with the Park Commission kiosk committee, is to prepare a history and photos for two locations in Palatine Park. One being the spur trail leading to the Parsonage - that kiosk will focus on Queensbury, the Parsonage, and the Maple Avenue African American community. The other location is near the gazebo on Palatine Park Road near Main St. That one will focus on Main St. - the Rockefellers, the bank failure, the 1923 fire, etc.
- Hank Jones Collection update: the arrangements with a moving company fell through so Tom will fly to San Diego and rent a van to drive the 860 books plus letters and files back to Germantown starting Jan. 10. The NYS chapter of Palatines to America and the Germantown Library are the recipients of the collection and will cover all costs equally. Since October, Germantown Library has made enough room so that the whole collection can be stored there rather than at the Parsonage as previously discussed.
- Iron Mountain grant update: Gave them an updated scanning priority list as follows: 1. Hank Jones letters and files. Two file cabinet drawers full. 2. Oversized maps at the History Department. Approximately 35 of them. 3. Glass plate negatives at the History Department. Approximately 50 of them. 4. Archive box full of Peary family letters and envelopes they were sent in. Approximately 75 of them.
- Save America's Treasures grant: the minimum grant award was \$125,000, meaning the Town would have to come up with a \$125,000 match and the project total would be \$250,000. So we held off on applying for now. Will request that the Town Board's Parks, Recreation, and History Committee look into the feasibility of replacing the Parsonage roof in 2022. We can forward information regarding the options we have previously discussed as well as details from 2004, the last time the Parsonage roof was replaced.
- Cemetery plot map project: Recently borrowed and scanned the maps from the current Reformed cemetery. We now have maps for the Valley View, Reformed, and Cheviot

cemeteries. Still need Second Lutheran, Viewmonte, and Camp Creek Road Methodist. Maps for the First Reformed and Lutheran cemeteries would be great but their existence is doubtful.

- Recent collection additions: more letters and the Peary family Bible on loan from the Peary Homestead; scrapbook of Walt Miller newspaper articles, some of which we didn't have previously.
- Exhibits: Looking to change it over on Feb. 1. Black history will be the theme. Melora offered to help with layout and design; Marisa offered to help with an online version potentially.
- An assistant to Lavada Nahon, Interpreter of African American History for NYS Bureau of Historic Sites, visited on Dec. 14th to photograph the downstairs mantel and the Parsonage generally.
- Columbia County historic sites mapping project: list is close enough to complete to submit. Would like to keep adding to it over time. Will attach to these minutes for review.
- Historian's annual report: quickly ran through what will be included. Rich added that the many collections donations taken in this year be listed. Report will be submitted to the Town Board before the January 2022 meeting.
- Events: Tom is doing one Zoom talk per month from January-April with Germantown Library. Marisa brought up the idea of doing a gravestone cleaning workshop and/or volunteer event. We'll work on setting that up for Spring or early Summer 2022.