

Minutes of May 10, 2022, Germantown Town Board meeting, held in the Germantown Town Hall, 50 Palatine Park Road, Germantown, NY and via Zoom, commencing at 6:50pm.

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

Recorded by: Town Clerk, Joyce Vale

Supervisor Helsley opened the meeting and Led with the Pledge to the Flag.

Motion to approve the April 12, 2022 public hearing and the April 12, 2022 board meeting minutes made by Councilman Sullivan, seconded by Councilmember Suarez, with all in favor and none opposed.

Motion to pay the audited bills for May 2022 made by Councilman Sullivan, seconded by Councilmember Suarez, with all in favor and none opposed.

### **Written Communications to the Town Clerk**

#### MAY REPORT

- 1-INSTALLED CATCH BASIN AND PIPE ON HINTERSTOWN ROAD
- 2-FINISHED BROOMING ALL TOWN ROADS
- 3-HELPED FIRE COMPANY WITH MILLINGS
- 4-WATER IS TURNED ON AT BALLFIELD, PAVILLION, AND MAINTENANCE BUILDING
- 5-CLEANED UP ANCHORAGE BOAT LAUNCH AND PARKING LOT
- 6-ANCHORAGE DOCK ARE IN
- 7-GRILLS, PICNIC TABLES AND GARBAGE CANS ARE OUT
- 8-FIXED WOODEN PICNIC TABLES
- 9-PICKED UP GARBAGE IN PARK
- 10-DID PLAYGROUND INSPECTION
- 11- GOT BALLFIELDS READY FOR LITTLE LEAGUE

#### HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT

##### ANTHONY CIDRAS

Hlstory Advisory Committee May 14, 2022 Attendance: Tony Albino, Donald Dubac, Alvin Sheffer, Tom Shannon -

Pomeroy grants - Deadline for our region is Oct. 1. We have the necessary written property owner permission for the First Lutheran Church sign, which was broken into many pieces in a recent car accident. Tom will ask permission for a 1923 fire sign at the pocket park at Main St. and Church Ave. Still working on permission for a few others. - Hover grant 2021 - First Reformed Cemetery Monument contract signed April 4th with Kol-Rocklea Memorials. They gave a 12-16 week window for installation. Donald suggested having Prof. Lindner sift the dirt when the foundation for the monument is dug. Leftover money from the memorial grant was used to order archive boxes and D2 to clean gravestones. Kiosks - the run up in lumber prices likely means that the grant money given will only cover Roe Jan Park kiosk this year. - Hover grant 2022 - Deadlines are July 1st for LOI, August 1st for full application. Tom suggested a monument for the First Lutheran Cemetery on the west side of 9G/north side of Sharp's Landing Road if we can get landowner permission. The other big priority is digitization and translation of the 1736-1800 Reformed church book that we have on loan from the church. Maybe bundle in the digitization of the Edmund Rockefeller store day books that we have as well. - Preserve NY grant - Ethan and Tom worked on it together and submitted in early April. We should know by July if the Preservation

League of NYS will fund a building condition report or not. - NYS Regional Economic Development Councils - Round 12 applications due July 29th. Tom will be working on the CFA, consolidated funding application over the next several weeks. Will ask for enough to cover a new roof and chimney repointing at the very least. - Columbia County Historical Society re-grant program - No word yet on this \$500 grant we applied for. There is a new director as of a couple of months ago and they recently reopened their research library for the first time since COVID. - Events: - Bard archaeology at the Parsonage, 3-4 later today - Emily Majer and Tom, happy hour at Quittner, 5-7 today - Lasher monument rededication at Anchorage, May 21st, noon - PalAm annual meeting at Germantown Library, June 4th, 10AM - PATH weekend kayak/canoe tour of G'town, June 18th, 11 AM - Friends of Rhinebeck Cemetery gravestone cleaning, June 25th - Independence Day fireworks, July 2nd. Hist. Dept. will have a table. - PATH fall weekend, thinking walking tour but not settled. Oct. 8-10 - Town-wide fall event, October. Event at Parsonage, TBD. - Recent donations: copies of Oak Terrace deeds and other papers, donated by Tom Romich; Rockefeller genealogy Volume 4, donated by Don Westmore; minutes and other documents of the now-defunct Germantown Neighbors Association, donated by Don Westmore; audio files of 2015 interviews with folks such as Helen Henderson, Marguerite Riter, Mary Howell, Joe Krupa, etc., donated by Billy Shannon. - We discussed putting the Germantown History Department digital archive on Hudson River Valley Heritage, an organization that shares digital history-related content from many different libraries and institutions. The topic has been broached within the History Dept. before. Tom will reach out to a representative of HRVH. - Columbia County historian, Bill Better, has asked Tom to work on researching and developing a Revolutionary War focused 4th grade curriculum for county school districts to use leading up to the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. Tom will begin working on material for Ihabod Crane CSD and Germantown CSD, eventually covering all of the districts. Target completion is Sept. 2023.

### Old Business

- Local Law No.1 2022- revision of the Zoning Map to extend the Hamlet Mixed-Use zoning district. After discussion a motion was made.

Motion to table Local Law No.1 of 2022 made by Councilman Sullivan, seconded by Councilman Kukon with all in favor and none opposed.

- NYStretch Code

Comments from CEO regarding past permits that would have been affected had stretch been in place.

Councilman Christian asked how many renovations apply to stretch? Brandon said anything applies to stretch and there were only a handful of the permits that didn't apply to stretch.

Councilmember Suarez read the following information:

NYS Stretch (these permits consist of Renovations, Additions, Single Family Dwellings, Commercial Buildings, Accessory buildings):

- 2019: 67 Building Permits were issued and 27 would have been affected. ~40%
- 2020: 91 Building Permits were issued and 43 would have been affected. ~47%
- 2021: 93 Building Permits were issued and 48 would have been affected. ~52%
- 2022: 21 Building Permits issued (couple pending missing information) 14 would be affected. ~67%
- 2019 - Current: 272 Building Permits issued and 132 would have been affected. ~49%

Please note, it's not required to get a permit when you break a window and replace one or two to match, or replace your front door, but Stretch code will affect that as well.

- Motion to adopt Part 1 of the full EAF

Motion declaring the unlisted action pursuant to SEQR declaring the Town Board as lead agency in the process and authorizing the Supervisor to sign Part 1 of the EAF made by Councilmember Suarez, seconded by Councilman Sullivan, with all in favor and none opposed.

- FEAF Part 2. Motion issuing a negative declaration and authorizing the Supervisor to sign Part 2 of the full EAF.

Motion determining that on the proposed action will not result in any significant adverse environmental impact issuing a negative declaration authorizing the Supervisor to sign Part 2 of the EAF made by Councilman Sullivan, seconded by Councilman Kukon, with all in favor and none opposed.

- Resolution to adopt Local Law No.1 2022

Corinne read the following resolution:

**TOWN BOARD**  
**TOWN OF GERMANTOWN**  
**COLUMBIA COUNTY, NEW YORK**

**RESOLUTION ADOPTING LOCAL LAW 1-2022**  
**Dated: April 12, 2022**

**WHEREAS** Local Law No. 1 of 2022 adopting NYStretch, a copy of which is annexed hereto, was laid on the desks of the members of the Town Board for at least 10 days; and

**WHEREAS** public hearings were duly noticed and held on January 18, 2022, February 8, 2022, and April 12, 2022, during which time members of public had to opportunity to submit oral and written comments on the local law; and

**WHEREAS** the Town Board has determined that the proposed legislative action is an “Unlisted” action pursuant to Article 8 of the Environmental Conservation law of the State of New York, and the regulations promulgated thereunder at 6 NYCRR 617 (“SEQRA”); and

**WHEREAS** the Town Board, as Lead Agency, has completed the SEQRA process which has resulted in a Negative Declaration.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Town Board of the Town of Germantown that Local Law No. 1 of 2022 is hereby adopted; and be it further

**RESOLVED** that Town Supervisor, with advice from the Attorney for the Town, is hereby authorized and directed within 30 days hereof to file a copy of the Local Law with the State Fire Prevention and Building Code Council (the “Code Council”) and Department of State’s State Records Unit.

Introduced by Councilmember Suarez  
 Seconded by Councilman Kukon

The question of the adoption of the foregoing Resolution was duly put to vote by roll call by the Town Clerk, which resulted as follows:

Supervisor Helsley	Nay
Deputy Supervisor Sullivan	Nay
Councilmember Christian	Yes
Councilmember Kukon	Nay
Councilmember Suarez	Yes

Vote was 3 Nay, 2 Yes

Councilman Sullivan added that he still wants the information from NYSERDA.  
 Supervisor Helsley said he doesn’t believe in numbers of 1-2% with the way costs have gone up.  
 Supervisor Helsley also hates mandating and it will drive people away.  
 Councilman Kukon said younger or elderly people are not going to be able to afford that extra money up front.  
 Councilmember Suarez said she appreciates all the discussion and totally understands but what is important.  
 Supervisor Helsley said this could be revisited at some point.

- Rezoning Committee Interviews- Set times for interviews? The Town Board was discussing dates and times. Dates chosen for interviews are Sunday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> 4-7pm and Saturday, June 11<sup>th</sup> 8-10:30am.
- ECode 360 information update. Councilman Christian gave the update. He said that he did not receive a formal quote and there is a on boarding cost for ECode 360, they take all your old laws and based on that they can figure the cost. They said it would cost approximately \$10,000 - \$12,000 going back to the laws from 1999 and would split this over 2 budget years. There is another cost of \$1,100 per year for the service and each time a new law is recorded there is a fee. Councilman Christian suggested putting it off until budget time. Supervisor Helsley agreed.
- Grid tie electrical service at Roe Jan Park update. Councilman Christian wrote to Scott Keller the head of Greenway to apply our grant funds for a grid tie system instead of a solar energy system that we originally applied for in the grant Scott said either is fine. Councilman Christian feels there is more flexibility with the grid tie and there is a monthly fee but it is not that significant for a town of our size.

Christina Bohnsack would like to keep the park small so people will stay briefly. Town Board discussion. Supervisor Helsley said the Waterfront Committee and Parks Commission can make the decision and give their recommendation and give to the Town Board.

- Removal of the term “generally” from Article VII, section A, subsection 4, paragraph a of the Germantown Zoning and Subdivision Law?
- Take action now or correct all questionable grammar during the upcoming revision?

Corinne said it is not complicated to change that it would go through the same process of local law, public hearing, Columbia County planning board and town planning board. Town Board discussion on this matter.

Motion for Corinne Smith to draft a local law to revise, Article VII section A, subsection 4, paragraph a of the Germantown Zoning and Subdivision Law made by Councilmember Suarez, seconded by Councilman Christian, with all in favor and none opposed.

### **New Business**

- Numerous open and/or expired building permits. Brandon is looking to close out the old permits. Councilman Kukon doesn't want to penalize past fees. Corinne said the Town Board can decide how to close out the past permits. Brandon feels that it is unfair to charge all the way back to 2018. Supervisor Helsley said building permits prior to January 1, 2021 they will waive any fees.

Motion to waive outstanding fees on building permits prior to January 1, 2021 made by Councilmember Suarez, seconded by Councilman Kukon, with all in favor and none opposed.

### **Supervisor's Report**

- Garden Club Plant Sale on, Saturday, May 14, 2022, 8AM-1PM
- Town Wide Yard Sale on, Saturday, May 21, 2022, 9AM-4PM, Rain date, Sunday, May 22, 2022.
- GCS will be conducting an evacuation drill on Wednesday, May 25, 2022, weather permitting (no rain date). Drill will begin around 1:25PM. Students K-12 will evacuate school property and proceed to Palatine Park. K-6 will go Kellner Activity Building, 7-12 will go to the Highway garage. School buses will pick up staff and students and return them to the school. During the walk, Main Street will be closed from 9G to the firehouse. Palatine Park Road will be closed to all traffic except buses for the duration of the drill. Germantown Fire Department, Columbia County Sheriffs and NYS Police will be involved.
- Memorial Day Ceremony and Parade is Monday, May 30<sup>th</sup> 2022. Ceremony at Palatine Park begins at 9:15AM. Germantown Reformed Church Cemetery ceremony begins at 10AM, followed by the parade procession to Palatine Park.

Dale Hinkein said the Fire Department will be cooking hot dogs under the pavilion.

### **Comments from Councilmembers**

Councilmember Suarez said she has many vendors set for the Independence Celebration and a beer & wine vendor in place. Discussion on vendors.

Corinne Smith RFP is ready to go forward to the planner for a July date. Corinne will work on a timeline and send to the Town Board. Town Board agreed not to put amount in.

**Comments and Questions from the public**

Dale Hinkein invited the public to the re-dedication of the monument at Lasher Memorial Park on May 21<sup>st</sup> at noon.

Dawn Breeze wondered why making the budget for the RFP is not a good idea? Dawn thinks transparency helps people decide if the project is in their scope and interest.

Councilman Sullivan said the RFP figure is in our budget made public on the town website.

Martin Overington said from the Waterfront Committee they would like to thank the Westmore's for their donation and the committee wishes to make them a member and would also like to make Art Cady a member as well. The 26<sup>th</sup> annual Riversweep was a success there were 700 pounds of trash collected, 400 pounds of metal, 4 tires and a cellphone.

Councilman Christian would like periodic reports from the committees. Councilman Christian suggested the Town Clerk in her communications report what she had received from the committees.

On June 14, 2022 there will be a public hearing on Local Law No. 1 zoning map revision at 6:45pm followed immediately by the Town Board meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:01pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Vale