

History Advisory Committee
June 11, 2022

Attendance: Richard Coons, Alvin Sheffer, Tony Albino, Tom Shannon

- Columbia County Historical Society re-grant program - We received \$250 to be put toward digitization of our collections.
- Preserve New York grant - awaiting a decision. Should be in July sometime.
- Pomeroy signs grant - Tom will ask the owners of the pocket park, 1 Church Ave, for permission to apply for a sign regarding the 1923 fire. Will pursue a new First Lutheran Church sign as well.
- Hover grant 2022 - letter of intent is due July 1st. Will ask for funds to subscribe to Hudson River Valley Heritage (more below), digitization and translation of the Reformed Churchbook 1737-1800, digitization of the mid-19th century Edmund Rockefeller store books. Rich suggested asking for funds for website design.
- Hudson River Valley Heritage - is part of a statewide archive for state and local history content from member institutions. The benefit is that they provide software, tech support, some training, and a central place for people to access content. One time start up fee is \$500; expected annual dues will be \$250 but could be a bit less or more depending on how much we put on.
- Regional Economic Development Councils - Tom began working on the Consolidated Funding Application for a Environmental Protection Fund: Parks, Preservation and Heritage Grant. This grant will potentially cover 50% of the cost of historic preservation projects. This requires two professional quotes for the roof and chimneys and a tremendous amount of "filler" grant writing. Will set up a few work party evenings to get this done before the July 29th deadline.
- Demolition permits: The architect for a project at 159 Maple Avenue sent us many photos of the existing barn on that property that is set to be demolished. It is not particularly old. Thought to date to the 1980s or 90s.
- Rezoning Committee: Tony spoke about the new rezoning committee that the town is putting together. Issues brought up included cemeteries, affordable housing, demolition permits, and ongoing communication between the committee and History Dept.
- New exhibit going up July 1st. After throwing a few ideas around, we settled on an exhibit regarding agriculture in Germantown. More to come in the next few weeks.

- Leftover Hover grant 2021 money - was used for archive boxes and D2 biological solution. Will put some gravestone cleaning work parties at Cheviot cemetery on the calendar. There may be enough to also take care of the Methodist cemetery on Camp Creek Road if the owners approve.

- Recent donations: Faythe Smith gave various items, notably a photo of the jurors in the once-famous Hallenbeck murder trial of 1902; Letter to postmaster William Overbaugh dated 1841, from a donor in Hot Springs, AR; Tom is going to pick up a pew from the owners of North Germantown Methodist Church after this meeting; Many items from the estate of the recently deceased Linda Fingar, including the dress uniform fire department cap of her father, Lyle Peter Fingar, Jr. Sent the hat with Tony to put on display at the fire department.

- Events:
 - PATH weekend kayak waterfront tour, June 18th, 9 AM at Lasher Park
 - Friends of Rhinebeck Cemetery gravestone cleaning, June 25th, 9 AM
 - Independence Day fireworks, July 2nd, 4 PM
 - PATH weekend, October 8-10, campfire, games, liquor license (?) at the Parsonage. Will develop further in the next few weeks. No town-wide event this fall.
 - Keeping the calendar relatively clear in July and August to make room for grant writing and gravestone cleaning work parties as well as "field trips" we discussed like the Ford site, Peary homestead, Burden cemetery, etc.