

Minutes of March 14, 2023, Germantown Town Board meeting, held via Zoom, commencing at 7:00pm.

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 enter into executive session on pending litigation on Mr. DuBois at 7:01pm made by Councilman Sullivan, seconded by Councilman Christian, with all in favor and none opposed.

Town Board exited executive session at 7:37pm.

Motion to approve the February 7, 2023 board meeting minutes made by Councilman Kukon, seconded by Councilman Sullivan, with all in favor and none opposed.

Supervisor Helsley asked if the board had a chance to review February 2023 financial reports on google drive and asked the town board if they had any concerns? Supervisor Helsley said one area was a little higher than usual. Councilman Sullivan commented the garage seems high probably due to propane costs.

Motion to pay audited bills for March 2023 made by Councilman Kukon, seconded by Councilmember Suarez, with all in favor and none opposed. Supervisor Helsley will be in the Town Hall tomorrow night for board members to sign off on the bills.

Written Communications to the Town Clerk

Town Clerk received monthly reports from History and Highway departments.

MONTHLY REPORT

- 1-PAINTING IN TOWNHALL
- 2-MOVED OFFICES AROUND
- 3-3/14 SNOWSTORM
- 4-STARTED WORKING ON BALLFIELDS
- 5-CUT DEAD AND DANGEROUS TREES IN PARK
- 6-CLEANED UP FALLEN LIMBS FROM STORM
- 7-HAD HEATER IN WASH BUILDING REPAIRED
- 8-HAULED ROAD SAND, TOP SOIL, AND MULCH
- 9-FIXED ALL RUT ALONG ROADS AND SIDEWALKS
- 10-PUT OLD BRUSH HOG OUT FOR SALE

ANTHONY CIDRAS, HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT

History Advisory Committee
March 25, 2023

Attendance: Christopher Lindner, Stephen Savoris, Alvin Sheffer, Tony Albino, Donald Dubac,

Rich Coons, Tom Shannon

- Started with a lengthy discussion of the incident on March 18th of a person using a metal detector to find and dig up artifacts in the Cheviot Cemetery. In the subsequent week, we received verification that town and county owned properties have no legal protection from this activity unlike state and federal lands. Please see the attached recommendation to the Town Board of a local law to protect lands owned by the Town of Germantown from treasure hunting. A motion was made in committee to draft this recommendation and send it to the Town Board by Tony Albino, seconded by Donald Dubac, and affirmed unanimously by all committee members.
- Preserve New York grant: Will be submitted by March 31st. We have a letter of support from State Sen. Hinchey's office; waiting on one from Assemblywoman Barrett's office.
- Jennifer Palmentiero of Hudson River Valley Heritage will visit the History Department in person on April 10th at 10 AM to get that digitization project started.
- Legends and Lore, Rev. Haeger's Vision: the foundry received the check and order form last week. It should be about a six month wait before we receive the new sign. The three NYS style historic markers funded by a separate grant may arrive several months sooner. Will make a decision about dedication ceremonies when the time comes.
- Ethan, Christopher, Tom, and Bard Administrators will meet in the next couple of weeks to work out a Memorandum of Understanding between Bard and the Town of Germantown regarding the archaeology work at the Parsonage. Will submit to the Town Board for approval when it is complete.
- Events:
 - Walking tour of Cheviot Cemetery, Park, and Ice House, PATH through history weekend June 18th, 5 PM.
 - Cemetery cleaning at Second Lutheran Cem: week of April 10th if the weather cooperates.
 - National Historic Marker Day, William G. Pomeroy Foundation event: April 28th. Will use D-2 to clean up the WWI monument at Palatine Park and re-black the names of the three soldiers who died overseas (if the American Legion and Town Board are ok with that).
- Recent donations:
 - A Baxter's Garage picture frame/thermometer donated by Spencer Robinson.
 - History of Rockefeller Tavern by Mary Black donated by Alvin Sheffer.
- Paintings by Walt Miller and Della Vosburgh Boice donated by John and Cheryl Steuhl.
- Alvin and Rich recently won at auction a collection of approximately 30 deeds, wills, and other documents related to Germantown. At least one is from the 18th Century.
- Donald suggested putting together an advertisement for people to donate Germantown-related historical documents.
- Rich proposed that we ask the Town to upgrade to a smart thermostat. The schedule setting on the current thermostat hasn't worked in about a year so we have had to adjust it manually.
- Tony spoke briefly about ideas for the drone footage project through FOHG. He asked us to come up with ideas for places to capture footage at in the near future.

Old Business

- Local Law A of 2023 Tax Exemption for first responders. The public hearing was rescheduled to April 11, 2023 at 6:45pm.
- Update to electronic records. Supervisor Helsley asked Councilman Christian to speak on this. Councilman Christian met with Jami, Supervisor Helsley and Jen Crawford to see how documents were handled now and figure a way to make more of electronic system. Councilman Christian said the next step would be to meeting with Planning and ZBA boards.
- ARPA Funds- drawings have been given to Gregg Haefelin of Handcrafted Builders for development of a "Best Case" estimate. Supervisor Helsley met with Gregg to give some basic design criteria. Gregg reviewed the drawings and is looking for a more reasonable cost estimate.
- STR Law- additional workshops needed? A STR workshop is scheduled for 6:00-6:45pm on April 11, 2023 at 6:45pm Public Hearing on Local Law A and Town Board meeting will directly follow the Public Hearing.

New Business

- Mail Chimp account is no longer free. Councilmember Suarez reached out to see if there is a non-profit or municipal rate which they do not. Councilmember Suarez said the basic rate is \$28.62 per month allowing a max of 1,500 contacts and sending up to 25 emails per month. Councilmember Suarez has used Constant Contact which charges \$35.00 per month for 500-2,500 contacts and Square which charges \$25.00 per month for 500-1,000 contacts and \$40.00 per month if you go over 1,000 contacts. Councilmember Suarez recommended Mail Chimp. Town Board agreed to Mail Chimp. Councilmember Suarez will send Supervisor Helsley the log in information.
- Creation of new bank account for NYSERDA funds. Councilman Christian said we received a second grant from NYSERDA relating to purchasing items for tool kits that residents will use for reducing home energy use. These funds need to be in their own account because of expenditures have to be separately reported to NYSERDA. Motion to create another bank account made by Councilman Sullivan, seconded by Councilmember Suarez with all in favor and none opposed.
- Motion for the Supervisor to sign the LWRP contract amendment. Supervisor Helsley it's just adjusting the town's financial responsibility and how the money is being distributed. Corinne said it is just moving budgeted funds around. Supervisor Helsley said there is no additional expense to the town. Motion for the Supervisor to sign the LWRP contract made by Councilmember Suarez, seconded by Councilman Sullivan with all in favor and none opposed.

Supervisor's Report

- GEDAC business meetup held on March 2, 2023. Supervisor Helsley said there was a good turnout.
- Community Events workshop held on March 6, 2023. Supervisor Helsley said there was about 25 people there. Councilmember Suarez was asked by the Parks Commission members to find out the status and location of the wagon? Supervisor Helsley said it is parked in front of the Maintenance building and he will check with Anthony if it is operational. Councilmember Suarez asked if Supervisor Helsley had a signup sheet from the Community Events workshop? Supervisor Helsley said he had a survey that he had people fill out and he needs to get a draft together. Councilmember Suarez said she would help with that. Councilmember Suarez would like to set up a meeting for Independence Day event she will send out an email.
- New computers are ready for delivery next week, please respond to the email string with available times for upgrades.

Comments from Councilmembers

Councilmember Suarez commented on the Earth Day Event the Parks Commission is working with a parent Molly Marquand to take children on a garlic mustard pull and wildflower walk on the trails and they just wanted permission from the town board. Supervisor Helsley agreed to this. Councilmember Suarez also received an email from WAC asking for donations for trees the Parks Commission is helping with this and she is asking permission to send a mail chimp on this. Supervisor Helsley asked where are they planting the trees? Martin Overington answered all waterfront parks. Supervisor Helsley reminded them to call before they dig.

Councilman Sullivan said the Germantown Drama Club is putting on the Wizard of Oz on March 24th and 25th at the school. Councilman Sullivan said the library doing a Pancake Breakfast on Sunday April 2nd along with an egg hunt at the Activity Building. Councilman Sullivan would like to set up interviews for Camp and if anyone wanted to help with that.

Councilman Christian said he's is working with Climate Smart looking into the usage of the HVAC system in the Kellner building and if there is a need for any improvements.

Comments or Questions from the public

Martin Overington thanked Supervisor Helsley for the community meeting that it was very helpful and nice to see everybody. Martin is looking forward to the community events. Martin would also like to have Anthony come down to the ice house and help with cleanup hopefully done before Earth Day. Supervisor Helsley will have Anthony contact Martin.

Motion to adjourn made by Councilman Sullivan, seconded by Councilmember Suarez, with all in favor and none opposed.

Meeting closed at 8:12pm.

Respectfully submitted,