

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 Cheyrl 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.
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- 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.