Minutes of May 9, 2023 Germantown Town Board meeting, held in the Germantown Town Hall, 50 Palatine Park Road, Germantown, NY and 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 followed by a moment of silence for the unexpected passing of Jay Trapp former Germantown CEO. Supervisor Helsley sends his condolences to Jay's family.

Motion to approve the April 11, 2023 workshop, public hearing April 11, 2023 and Town Board meeting minutes April 11, 2023 made by Councilman Kukon, seconded by Councilmember Suarez, with all in favor and none opposed.

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

Written Communications to the Town Clerk

History department report and email from Kathy Overington.

History Advisory Committee April 28th, 2023

Meeting canceled due to schedule conflicts; Historian's notes below.

- The History Department received a check of \$345.32 from the Columbia County Historical Society re-grant program. This will be used for the requested archival materials and paint for NYS historic signs.

- New York Heritage: We are up and running. The first project is the Colden Map. So far, the original map and two indentures are available. Check them out at: https://nyheritage.org/collections/1740-1741-colden-map

- We will soon be joining Empire Archival Discovery Cooperative, which is associated with New York Heritage, to organize the physical archive and make the contents of it known to researchers online. For organizations our size, the cost is a one time fee of \$50. This is a more feasible alternative to ArchivesSpace, which we previously discussed, which would cost \$300 annually.

- Three new historic signs arrived from the foundry recently. They are for Sharp's Landing, the First Lutheran Church, and Diell Rockefeller's Mills. One belongs on a county road and two on a state road. Anthony has calls out to the applicable officials. We will set up a dedication ceremony once they are put up. These were paid for by last year's Hover grant sponsored by the Germantown Library.

- Metal detector law status: the Town Board discussed at the April meeting and voted to move forward. The Town Attorney should have a formal draft of the law ready for consideration at the May Town Board meeting.

- Tom spoke to all of the 4th, 5th, and 6th graders at GCS recently about the Civil War and soldiers from Germantown who fought in it.

Bank of Greene County grant program: we applied for \$2,500 to reprint pamphlets several months ago through FOHG. Recently, BoGC granted \$1,000 for the project.
Given that the project is only partially funded, we need to prioritize which ones to reprint.
Yvonne Crawford is now an official member of the History Department.

- Recent donations: Yvonne Crawford donated account books from Isaac P. Rockefeller's lumber/coal business at the foot of Funk Road for two full years in the 1870s and also many scanned photographs of Rockefeller and associated families. We also received many items from Mary Howell including a 1741 indenture for lands granted to Anna Maria Sipperle.

- Columbia County 250th Committee: the proposed name for the 250th celebrations is ColumbiaNY250. There are plans for a large event at the Chatham fairgrounds on July 4th, 2026. Tom is the chair of the Marketing Sub-Committee.

- Events:

- June 18th, 5 PM Walking Tour of Cheviot Cemetery, hamlet, and park.

- June TBD, FOHG event at Quittner.

- July 1st, 4PM-11PM Fireworks at Palatine Park, History Dept. will have a table.

- Sept. 9th 4PM-7PM Tom and Emily Majer, Q and A at Quittner.

- September: Otto's will have a Germantown history themed sandwich all month.

- Sept. 16th Hudson River Valley Ramble. Kayak/History Tour from Lasher Park to the Ramshorn Livingston Sanctuary led by Tom. Hiking Tour of the Sanctuary led by Greene County Historian Jonathan Palmer.

- TBD, talk at the Reformed Church about the stained glass windows. Rev. Tipple will talk about the theological significance of each one. Tom will talk about the people they are dedicated to.

Letter from Kathy Overington:

May 9, 2023

David Helsley, Germantown Town Supervisor

Germantown Town Board

50 Palatine Park Road

Germantown NY 12526

Re; Germantown River Sweep Thanks

Dear Supervisor Helsley and Town Board members,

Martin & I would like to express our appreciation to you for continuing to support our Germantown River Sweep efforts in this, our 26th year.

In addition to your support we are grateful for the assistance of Town Highway

Department members, Anthony Cidras, Phil Salvatore, Luke Mack, and Ryan Brown, who joined in the May 6th event. They provided invaluable help with pickup and loading of trash throughout the cleanup, and disposal afterwards. Their help is greatly appreciated and they are a pleasure to work with!

We are delighted that volunteers and our town support this project year after year. This year our efforts resulted in removal of 1/2 ton of trash and 6 tires. We had a total of 28 participants, including 8 teachers from the Germantown Teachers Association, GCS students,

Germantown Troop 122 Scouts, community members, and River Keeper Director, Dan Shapley. We even had a visit from David Lee, photographer for The Columbia Paper, who accompanied us through the second mile of the sweep.

It was a day that left us feeling great about our accomplishments and full of pride for our town.

Thank you again for helping make the 26th Annual Germantown River Sweep a success! Best Regards,

Kathy Overington

Germantown River Sweep Coordinator

Old Business

- Update on Electronic records. Councilman Christian met with Jami and Brandon and reported they made some progress.
- Kellner Activity Building- no further activity to report.
- Local Law C- STR Law. Corinne made a couple of changes that she would like the Town Board to agree with before circulating. Councilmember Suarez wanted to know where we are with this? Corinne said we are still at the beginning stages, once the Town Board okays the draft a date will be set for a public hearing and depending on the comments the next steps are the draft copy going to the County Planning Board and Town Planning Board. Councilman Christian asked if the changes were redlined? Corinne added more in the enforcement section and in section 9, section G, she was not sure if the Town Board wanted that included. Corinne said the permitted use schedule and seasonal are new additions to the draft. Supervisor Helsley asked if the Town Board had any changes to add? Corinne said the board has time to review before she sends it

out. A resident asked if hotel tax is included in the STR? Corinne said "no" it is legislative action at state level.

Complete SEQR part 1 for LLC. Corinne built everything into the resolution. Corinne said we will wait for County comments and the County will add to their June agenda.
 Public Hearing date is set for July 25th at 6pm.

Supervisor Helsley read the following Resolution:

TOWN BOARD TOWN OF GERMANTOWN COLUMBIA COUNTY, NEW YORK May 9, 2023.

BE IT RESOLVED, that Local Law No. C of 2023, providing for a local law revising the Zoning and Subdivision Law to regulate short-term rentals is hereby introduced at this meeting; And

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED; by the Town Board of the Town of Germantown as follows;

- The Town Board of the Town of Germantown shall hold a public hearing on the 25th day of July, 2023 at 6 p.m. at the Kellner Activity Building and via Zoom technology to hear all interested parties on said proposed local law; and
- The Town Clerk of the Town of Germantown is hereby authorized and directed to publish notice of said public hearing in the official newspaper of the Town, on the Town's website, and on the Town sign board at least ten (10) days prior to the date of the public hearing; and
- 3. The Town Board declares itself lead agency for purposes of State Environmental Quality Review ("SEQR") for the proposed action and hereby finds that the proposed project is a Type I action and authorizes the Town Supervisor to sign Part 1 of the Full EAF; and
- 4. The Town Clerk of the Town of Germantown with assistance from the attorney for the Town is hereby authorized and directed to refer the local law to the Columbia County Planning Board pursuant to General Municipal Law § 239-m; and
- 5. The Town Clerk of the Town of Germantown is hereby authorized and directed to give notice of said public hearing to all adjacent municipalities at least ten (10) days prior to the date of the public hearing; and
- 6. The Town Clerk of the Town of Germantown with assistance from the attorney for the Town is hereby authorized and directed to refer the local law to the Town Planning Board for a report and recommendation thereon pursuant to Town of Germantown Zoning and Subdivision Law Article XVI, section B (2).

Introduced by: Councilman Sullivan

Seconded by: Councilmember Suarez

The proposed Resolution having been approved by a majority of the Board, the same was declared duly adopted by the Germantown Town Board.

Dated: May 9, 2023.

- Resolution Approving the DuBois settlement. Supervisor Helslely read the following Resolution:

TOWN BOARD TOWN OF GERMANTOWN COLUMBIA COUNTY, NEW YORK May 9, 2023

WHEREAS, the Town of Germantown was made a party to an action commenced by Brian DuBois against the Town, former Town Supervisor Robert Beaury, and former Town Board Member Ronald Moore in Columbia County Supreme Court (Index No. 14576-19), removed to the Northern District of New York (Civil Case No. 1:20-cv-0086), and appealed to the Appellate Division, Third Department, and a second action commenced in Columbia County Supreme Court (Index No. E012021017237); and

WHEREAS, the parties have reached a settlement agreement to fully and finally resolve all claims set forth in both actions and the pending appeal subject to Town Board approval; and

WHEREAS, NYMIR, the Town's insurer, has represented that the Town's applicable claims deductible under its Municipal Public Officials Liability Policy applicable to this matter is \$2,500.00.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of Germantown finds that it is in the best interests of the Town to approve the Settlement Agreement and General Release in the form attached hereto provided, however, that nothing in the Agreement obligates the Town to make any payments in excess of its \$2,500.00 deductible; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Town Supervisor be and he hereby is authorized and directed to sign the Settlement Agreement and do all things necessary to carry out the intent of this resolution.

Introduced by: Councilmember Suarez

Seconded by: Councilman Sullivan

The proposed Resolution having been approved by a majority of the Board, the same was declared duly adopted by the Germantown Town Board.

Dated: May 9, 2023

Local Law B- Metal Detecting Law. Do we want to allow permits?
 Councilmember Suarez would like to hear from Tom Shannon in regards to permits.
 Tom said he does not like the idea of permits it's more of a burden on the town. Public hearing set for June13th at 6:45pm.

Supervisor Helsley read the following Resolution:

TOWN BOARD TOWN OF GERMANTOWN COLUMBIA COUNTY, NEW YORK May 9, 2023

BE IT RESOLVED, that Local Law No. B of 2023, providing for a local law prohibiting metal detecting and treasure hunting on all town-owned property is hereby introduced at this meeting; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED; by the Town Board of the Germantown as follows:

- The Town Board of the Town of Germantown shall hold a public hearing on the 13th day of June, 2023 at 6:45p.m. at the Town Hall and via Zoom technology to hear all interested parties on said proposed local law; and
- 2. The Town Clerk of the Town of Germantown is hereby authorized and directed to publish notice of said public hearing in the official newspaper of the Town, on the Town's website, and on the Town sign board at least five (5) day prior to the date of the public hearing; and
- The Town Board declares itself lead agency for purposes of State Environmental Quality Review ("SEQR") for the proposed action and hereby finds that the proposed project is a Unlisted action and authorizes the Town Supervisor to sign Part 1 of the Short EAF.

Introduced by: Councilman Kukon

Seconded by: Councilmember Suarez

The proposed Resolution having been approved by a majority of the Board, the same was declared duly adopted by the Germantown Town Board.

Dated: May 9, 2023

 Green revolving fund resolution. Corinne highlighted 2 sections and changed based on Councilman Christian's language recommendations. Corinne asked if the town board wanted to create an overall cap for the Green Revolving Fund and whether they wanted a time period for how long a single project revolves back into the fund. Couniclman Christian said re-coop 2 years on the shorter side and 10 years on the longer and an investment can go past the 10 years. Councilman Sullivan said it would be hard to tract these. All reports back to the Town Board, subject to Town Board approval and budgeted accordingly. Corinne said the resolution can be revised by future boards. Corinne recommended to set the cap high. Supervisor Helsley is in favor of removing the cap. In the Resolution section 2 stays and section 4 comes out. Resolution attached is the revised version.

Councilman Christian read the following Resolution:

TOWN BOARD TOWN OF GERMANTOWN COLUMBIA COUNTY, NEW YORK May 9, 2023

WHEREAS, the Town of Germantown achieved Clean Energy Community designation and received a \$5,000 grant from NYSERDA Clean Energy Communities Program; and

WHEREAS, at the recommendation of the Climate Smart Communities Task Force, the Town Board has determined the best use of these grant funds is to establish an internal revolving fund dedicated to funding certain energy efficiency improvement projects or renewable energy generation projects that generate cost savings. Those savings are then used to replenish the fund, allowing for reinvestment in future green projects. This establishes an ongoing funding vehicle that helps drive energy efficiency and sustainability over time, while generating cost savings and ensuring capital is available for green projects. It also serves as an educational tool to show long term energy savings.

NOW, **THEREFORE**, be it resolved that the Town Board of the Town of Germantown hereby establishes a Green Revolving Fund subject to the following policies and procedures

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR GREEN REVOLVING FUND TOWN OF GERMANTOWN COLUMBIA COUNTY, NY

These Policies and Procedures create the Town of Germantown's Green Revolving Fund and govern the use of funds in the fund.

- 1. The initial NYSERDA grant of \$5,000 shall be deposited into a separate Town account for the Green Revolving Fund.
- 2. The Climate Smart Communities Task Force shall form a subcommittee. Such subcommittee shall meet at least biannually and periodically make recommendations to the Town Board as to which projects to fund. Eligible projects shall include energy efficiency improvement projects or renewable energy generation projects that generate cost savings to the Town. By September 1 of each year, the Climate Smart Communities Task Force and/or subcommittee shall prepare a report detailing annual savings/avoided costs for each project based on actual savings from the prior year using the Municipal

Greenhouse Gas Inventory, energy benchmarking, or other reliable information. For each project, the amount recommended to be revolved into the fund shall be 100% of savings/avoided costs per year limited to the longer of a period of 10 years from the initial investment for the project or the time it takes for the initial investment for the project to revolve back into the fund.

- 3. Based on the report prepared by the Climate Smart Communities Task Force and/or subcommittee, during the annual budgeting process, the Town Board will determine how much to budget and transfer into the Green Revolving Fund for the upcoming fiscal year.
- 4. All expenditures of funds must be approved by resolution of the Town Board.
- 5. These Policies and procedures may be amended from time to time by resolution of the Town Board.

And be it further

RESOLVED, by the Town Board of the Town of Germantown that the Town Board declares itself lead agency for purposes of State Environmental Quality Review ("SEQR") for the proposed project and hereby finds that the proposed project is a Type II action not subject to further review under SEQR.

- Introduced by: Councilmember Suarez
- Seconded by: Councilman Sullivan

The proposed Resolution having been approved by a majority of the Board, the same was declared duly adopted by the Germantown Town Board.

Dated: May 9, 2023

Joyce Vale, Town Clerk Germantown Town Board

- IFB for Town Hall roof replacement. Updated. Corinne asked if the pre-bid contractors could come and see the site like when the salt shed roof was done? Supervisor Helsley will check with Anthony and let Corinne know the date and time frame. Councilman Sullivan asked if a shingle roof will cost more than a sheet metal roof? Supervisor Helsley said he didn't know which is less. Supervisor Helsley asked Corinne if the contractors could bid both ways? Corinne said the contractors could bid on both or just one and for Supervisor Helsley send her the language. Town Board agreed to close Town Hall during the roof installation. Councilman Christian asked if there be a problem if the lowest bid was on the style roof we didn't want? Councilman Sullivan said we don't have to take the lowest bid. Corinne said the lowest qualified bidder on whichever option. Supervisor Helsley said it would be more difficult installing solar on a metal roof without sheathing. Councilman Christian said you would always want to install solar on a newer roof.

New Business

- Letter of support for the CDRCP to apply for a grant from the EPA. Supervisor Helsley read the following letter:

Dear Richard,

The town of Germantown enthusiastically supports the Capital District Regional Planning Commission (CDRPC), serving as the lead organization for the Albany-Schenectady-Troy, NY MSA, in carrying out the climate action planning initiatives and requirements of the EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grant program (CPRG). CDRPC has been a regional leader in supporting communities as they transition to renewable energy and address climate change. The CPRG program will complement existing state and regional initiatives supported by CDRPC, such as the Clean Energy Communities and Climate Smart Communities programs, and will help further

address climate change in the Capital Region. Our municipality will participate in the development of the regional climate action plan, providing input about our local initiatives and projects, and how they can be supported by this regional framework for climate action. We look forward to this exciting initiative.

Councilman Christian and Councilmember Suarez said we should to this. Christina said by doing this it opens up federal money so will enable us to apply for grants later on. Supervisor Helsley will not be signing this letter. He feels climate initiatives are going to far and he disagrees with not being able to put a gas stove in your house. Supervisor Helsley agrees with greenhouse gas emissions but somethings are going too far. Christina said this allows us to fund the projects that we want to do. Corinne said this requires town board approval. Councilman Sullivan will sign the letter.

Motion to have Councilman Sullivan approve and sign the support letter made by Councilmember Suarez, seconded by Councilman Christian. Supervisor Helsley abstained.

- Authorize the Supervisor to sign the MOU for the Hudson River Valley Greenway Grant in the amount of \$10,000.

Motion to authorize the Supervisor to sign the MOU for the Hudson River Valley Greenway Grant in the amount of \$10,000 made by Councilman Sullivan, seconded by Councilmember Suarez, with all in favor and none opposed.

Supervisor's Report

- I am happy to announce that there is a LL in front of the CC BOS on 5/10/23 to offer a 10% county property tax discount to volunteer firefighters and ambulance workers with at least 2 years of service. Councilman Christian said there are a few firefighters eligible.
- First Music by the Lake event is May 13th beginning at 6PM.
- Mother's Day- Sunday May 14th
- Garden Club plant sale- May 20, 2023 from 8AM to 1PM
- Councilmember Suarez is working on a document to provide guidance to committees on fundraising and expenditure procedures- Thank you! Councilmember Suarez asked about when individuals will be reimbursed. Councilman Sullivan said after the Town Board meeting. Councilman Sullivan said the accounts are set up with vendors. Supervisor Helsley said it will provide guidance to those who use and a policy will have to be approved by the town board. Corinne said something to think on doing if there are no resolutions stating this.
- Memorial Day observance- Monday, May 29th.

Comments from Councilmembers

Councilman Christian said has some thoughts from Martin regarding the solar lights at Lasher Park. Supervisor Helsley said DEC is going to say "no". Councilman Sullivan said solar and wind \$2,900 on the existing pole. Check budget. Corinne will look at DEC agreement. Councilman Christian asked to have Anthony look at the device. Christina said Anthony not into this. Councilman Christian suggested reflective signs which also need DEC approval. Quotes. Councilmember Suarez something to move forward with, Councilman Sullivan agreed. Councilman Christian said any light would be better than no light. Supervisor Helsley will try to find similar solar/wind lights. Supervisor Helsley said approved up to \$3,000 expenditure. Motion to approve up to \$3,000 expenditure on solar/wind lighting made by Councilman Sullivan, seconded by Councilmember Suarez, with all in favor and none opposed.

Councilman Christian said we got an ad from Delaware Engineering on the new funds being available for environmental facilities for water infrastructure. Councilman Christian said there is still a need on Maple Avenue with some houses with septic issues and he is wondering if they can look into possibilities. Councilman Christian will do some research and report next month.

Councilmember Suarez reported that the Bounce House company from last year failed. The new company will bring everything and will also have attendants. Councilmember Suarez asked if the bracelets for the ride be covered under the town? Supervisor Helsley covered in the budget for Independence Day. \$1,500-2,000. Councilman Kukon agreed. Town Board discussed the charge. Councilmember Suarez asked if there would be a charge for the dunk tank 50/50. Free?

Councilmember Suarez mentioned getting rid of the COVID signs. Town Board agreed to have the signs taken down.

Councilman Sullivan said GCS Class of 2028 will be holding a car wash on Saturday, May 13th from 10am to 2pm in the GCS parking lot. American Red Cross Blood Drive sponsored by GCS Class of 2028 Saturday, June 3rd 8:30am-12:30pm held in the Firehouse. Councilman Sullivan reported that the Re-zoning committee is meeting twice a month. Councilmember Suarez said Town wide yard sale day is May 20th.

Comments and Questions from the public

Christina Bohnsack mentioned the Roe Jan Boat Club Canoe Race this Saturday.

Barbara Hughey brief description of what EMC is doing. Barbara talked to Anthony about doing something with the roadway invasive species and how difficult this would be. Barbara asked what does the town board want her to bring to the group? Attached is Barbara's letter.

Dear Supervisor and Town Board Members,

Attached here is an outline of matters being addressed at the Columbia County Environmental Management Council (EMC) in recent meetings.

I am pleased to report that there are a number of active programs being worked on at this time.

Please let me know if there is more information wanted on any of this topics or if there are any new topics you want brought up to this group. I will do my best to find the appropriate point person for you to contact for more information.

Sincerely,

Barbara Hughey Germantown Representative to CC EMC

Heat Smart Campaign, Clean Heating, Cooling and Energy EfficiencyCampaign

David Newman of Ghent, is working with Don Meltz of County Planning to develop a web site to make accurate information on the program widely available.

The county is very active in trying to get information to residents about heat pump cost share eligibility and align them with contractors to do efficiency audits and installations.

Ancram, Hillsdale and Copake are doing a joint program presentation May 6 and 15 at the Roe Jan Library.

It's been determined that more qualified contractors are needed to address demand.

Our Christina Bohnsack, also of Capital District Clean Energy, is the expert on this topic for more information.

Possible marketing effort for the program being discussed with Mid Hudson and Columbia County Library Associations.

Climate Smart Communities

Don Meltz, of CC Planning is the new Coordinator of CSC Columbia County Task Force.

The County task force is continuing to support local groups to achieve fundable goals through Climate Smart Communities Program.

The Germantown CSC group is known as a very outstanding and successful group.

The last round of communities to sign up to participate in the state were disproportionately represented by Columbia County. I believe it was seven out of the seventeen state wide that were from Columbia County

Columbia Northeast Repair Group, that includes Austerlitz, New Lebanon, Chatham, Canaan, and Village of East Nassau have hosted repair cafes with excellent attendance as means of keeping broken or damage items out of landfills and back into useful condition. Cara Humphreys of Austerlitz, and Bruce Shenker of New Lebanon are the drivers of this effort.

Environmental Education and On the Ground efforts in Columbia County

Hudsonia and HREP are hosting a workshop entitled <u>Planning for Nature in Your</u> <u>Community</u>, May 15th at CGCC 6-8:00 Columbia Land Conservancy is planning a county wide effort on this front.

A number of Columbia county towns have shown the attached video by Doug Tallamy to encourage people to take doable, effective steps to actively recover ecosystem health in their own back yards and communities.

Columbia Land Conservancy is willing and able to send someone to a showing of the video to answer questions and guide the discussion. Both Copake and Claverack had viewings for Earth Day last month. It has been met with much enthusiasm and spurred effective public action.

Deer impact on the landscape.

Gallatin did a deer exclusionary project using tree branches/slash in a public area for their earth day festivities, combined with installing native pollinator plants in this protected space.

Invasive species control and management is being organized and enacted in a number of communities. Most of this work has to date been conducted by volunteers but funding sources are being investigated to help local DPW's and other groups get the resources needed to do a more sustained effort and take to enable a long range view for management of this problem.

Zero Waste

Efforts are being made to encourage business to accommodate patrons using containers brought from home to use for leftovers to reduce one time use containers. At this time it is considered OK for people to bring containers and take food from their own plate to take away, however because of strict sanitary regulations about what restaurants can use or bring into their kitchens these containers can not be used by restaurant staff for this purpose or for people ordering take out.

New Columbia County Composting System

Aerobic digester for composting food waste at Greenport transfer Station was demonstrated to Columbia County Group last month. Digester handles 1000 pounds per day.

Christina thanked Barbara in regards to the removal of the invasive species. Christina also mentioned the 3rd & 4th grade students on the removal of the garlic mustard. Christina said Earth Day went very well. Christina also said they had a meeting with DEC about the water chestnuts. Supervisor Helsley said DEC wants to schedule a follow up. Christina suggested to lobby our elected officials.

Tom Shannon would like the COVID signs for the History Department.

Motion to enter into Attorney-Client Privileged session at 8:41pm to discuss a legal matter made by Councilman Sullivan, seconded by Councilman Kukon, with all in favor and none opposed.

Motion to end Attorney-Client session at 9:06pm made by Councilmember Suarez, seconded by Supervisor Helsley, with all in favor and none opposed.

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

Meeting closed at 9:07om.

Respectfully submitted,