

History Advisory Committee

July 29th, 2023

Attendance: Yvonne Crawford, Tony Albino, Rich Coons, Alvin Sheffer, Tom Shannon

- The William G. Pomeroy Foundation grant check of \$3,000 to purchase new computers at the History Department arrived. Will submit a purchase order to the Town Board before their next meeting.
- Building condition report on the Parsonage is tentatively scheduled with Crawford and Stearns for September. It will be paid for through donations to FOHG.
- Hudson River Bank and Trust grant will be submitted soon through FOHG. Asking for \$5,000 for chimney and roof work on the Parsonage.
- Hover Foundation grant was submitted through FOHG. Asking for D2 biological solution, two historic markers (ice house and 1923 fire), and \$2,000 to be put toward chimney repair.
- Bank of Greene County grant was received at their recent award ceremony. It is \$1,000 for publishing history related pamphlets. The consensus of the committee was to publish one of Walter Miller's unpublished manuscripts or condense all of the church histories into one pamphlet.
- Oral histories: Wendell Choinsky, Leland, Raymond, Elizabeth, and Timothy Crawford were all recently interviewed. We went over our list of people to interview in the coming weeks.
- The annual invoice for New York Heritage arrived. It is \$505. The Germantown Library has \$395 leftover from the 2022 Hover Foundation grant. Will submit the remaining \$110 to the Town Board to be paid out of the History Department's budget allocation.
- The internet at the Parsonage was out briefly last week due to a wayward weed whacker. The wire is run through a conduit now.
- Recent donations: the gravestone of David L. Sloat, found on a property on Lasher Avenue, donated by Joshua Tuscan (didn't seem to be an actual burial site; genealogical leads haven't panned out yet); Crawford family movies from the 1950s and 60s given by Ray Crawford; Conrad Weiser Homestead books and meeting minutes given by Cindy Mendehlsohn; three archive boxes given by Mary Howell; collector Jon Meredith let Rich scan a book of quit rents from the 1750s for properties in East Camp.

- Gravestone cleanings: the Second Lutheran Cemetery is more than two-thirds complete. Cleaning at the Second Reformed Cemetery scheduled to start July 30th, 3 PM to 8 PM. The Kukon Brothers supplied water for recent cleanings at both cemeteries. We have a little bit over 35 gallons of D2 biological solution on hand as of today, July 29th, all courtesy of the William G. Pomeroy Foundation.
- Memorandum of Understanding with Bard College: the Town Board and Attorney reviewed it at the July 11th Town Board meeting and asked that one clause indemnifying the Town of Germantown from liability related to the archaeological work be added. This proposed clause was sent to Bard administration shortly after the July Town Board meeting. As of today, no word back has been received.
- Drone footage: Tony spoke about our plans to do more drone footage through FOHG, this time focused on the Germantown waterfront.
- Events:
 - September 9th: Q and A at Quittner, 4PM to 7 PM
 - September: History Dept./Germantown Library themed sandwich at Otto's
 - September 16th: Hudson River Valley Ramble
 - October 21st: Oktoberfest in Palatine Park all day. Campfire, games, food and beverage at the Parsonage.
 - October/November: lecture about the stained glass windows at the Reformed Church.