

History Advisory Committee
Sept. 30, 2023

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

- We spoke about the details of the proposed computer order from the Col. County MIS Department. Decided to ask to remove Adobe Acrobat from the order and use the savings to get a more powerful desktop.
- Eagle Scout, Hugh Black, and crew will be doing walkway edging, weed whacking, and general yard work tasks at the Parsonage on Oct. 14th and 15th. Rain date of Oct. 28th and 29th.
- Tony spoke about the history relevant components of the Rezoning Committee's work. The core ask is related to demolition permit procedure, five areas of particular historic and prehistoric importance, and formal protections for the handful of cemeteries located on private land.
- Bard Archaeology MOU: A few months ago at the Town Attorney and Board's request, Tom asked Bard administration to add an indemnity clause to the draft MOU. On Sept. 29th, an assistant to Coleen Murphy Alexander responded that Bard will not accept the addition of any part of the indemnity clause to the MOU. Tom will present this information to the Town Board in October and ask how they want to proceed.
- Crawford and Stearns will be at the Parsonage on Oct. 12th to conduct a building condition report. The report is being paid for by a donation to Friends of Historic Germantown.
- Chimney RFP: Tom will send a draft to the Town Board and Attorney ahead of the October board meeting.
- Pomeroy Foundation Historic Transportation Marker program: This is a new marker program. Ideas floated were passenger service at Cheviot, Lower Main, or Anchorage as well as abandoned roads. Will have to decide and pick one to apply for in the next week or so.
- Columbia County 250th Committee: all quiet of late. There should be a meeting soon.
- Revolutionary Hudson Valley: a new 501(c)3 set up by the county historians in the Hudson Valley to be eligible for grants and fundraising related to the semiquincentennial. Sail250NY is one of the partner efforts associated with RHV.

- Germantown was featured in Hudson Valley Magazine and the New York Times recently. French documentary filmmakers were at the Parsonage, First Reformed Cemetery, and Cheviot Cemetery on Sept. 23rd. Their primary focus was on Conrad Weiser Sr. and Jr.
- Recent donations: Several William Wilson (1756-1828) letters given by Alvin Sheffer. A laminated 1942 Hudson Daily Star newspaper commemorating the opening of the gymnasium at GCS and miscellaneous other items given by Mary Howell. Several Palatine family genealogies and a few Arthur Kelly and similar books given by Reid Reynolds.
- Events:
 - Oct. 21st, Oktoberfest
 - Dec. 2nd, Stained glass windows talk, Reformed Church
 - Oct. or Nov. TBD, Mrs. Taylor's 4th graders Parsonage tour
 - Winter Zoom lectures TBD. Tentative subjects: North Germantown, 1923 fire building by building, groundwater issues over the years