

Minutes of October 10, 2023, Germantown Town Board meeting, held in the Germantown Town Hall, 50 Palatine Park Road, Germantown, New York and via Zoom, commencing at 7:12pm.

Present: Supervisor Helsley
Councilman Sullivan
Councilman Kukon
Councilmember Suarez
Councilman Christian

Present via Zoom: Town Attorney, Corinne Smith

Recorded by: Town Clerk, Joyce Vale

Supervisor Helsley opened the Town Board meeting and Led with the Pledge to the Flag.

Motion to approve the September 12, 2023 meeting minutes made by Councilmember Suarez, seconded by Councilman Kukon, with all in favor and none opposed.

Review of Financial Reports. No questions or comments from the board.

Motion to pay the audited bills for October 2023 made by Councilman Sullivan, seconded by Councilman Kukon, with all in favor and none opposed.

Written Communications to the Town Clerk

Town Clerk received monthly reports from History and Highway departments.

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 form 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 Church 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 tour of the Parsonage
 - Winter Zoom lectures TBD. Tentative subjects: North Germantown, 1923 fire building by building, groundwater issues over the years.

OCTOBER MONTHLY REPORT

- 1-DID ANOTHER ROUND OF PACKING
- 2-FINISHING UP LAST ROUND OF MOWING SHOULDERS
- 3-CLEANED UP TREES THAT CAME DOWN ON ROADS AND PARK
- 4-HAD COLLIN COME IN AND TAKE DOWN HANGING LIMBS THAT WHERE TO HIGH FOR US
- 5-WORKED ON 2024 BUDGET
- 6-RECEIVED NEW SALT CONTRACT PRICES WENT UP
- 7-REPLACED SEVERAL ROAD SIGNS
- 8-HAVE HAY WAGON READY FOR OCTOBERFEST
- 9-SCRAPPED AND PAINTED DIESEL TANK
- 10-STILL DOING A LOT OF MOWING

ANTHONY CIDRAS

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT

Old Business

- New Google account created for Planning and Zoning documents. Login info will be shared with Planning and Zoning chairs, secretary and town board members as needed. Councilman Christian asked if it would be connected to Jami's gmail account? Supervisor Helsley said it would be a separate gmail account. Supervisor Helsley said the Planning and Zoning chairs along with himself and Councilman Christian will need access to the accounts.
- Kellner Activity Building- next steps. Town Board agreed next steps were the electrical system.

- Community Forest Conservation Grant Program update on Bard property. Resolution to apply for grant and allocate matching funds. Councilman Christian said missing is the budget resolution and assessment. Councilman Christian said there are two pieces, one is the Forestry Grant application and the other is Most Forestry Grant attachments. Councilman Christian said there is a 10% match which cannot all be in personal services 5% has to be actual real money. Councilman Christian said this is a tremendous educational opportunity. The grant was written by Jan Borchet and Tom Shannon. Councilman Christian said they got five recommendations for the grant. One was Scenic Hudson and Columbia Land Conservancy. They received letters of support from Didi Barrett, Michelle Hinchey and Marc Molinaro. Councilman Sullivan also wrote a letter of support and Corinne helped with it as well. Supervisor Helsley read the following Resolution:

**TOWN BOARD
TOWN OF GERMANTOWN
COLUMBIA COUNTY, NEW YORK
Dated: October 10, 2023**

**A RESOLUTION OF GERMANTOWN
TO SET ASIDE FUNDS FOR
COMMUNITY FOREST ACQUISITION**

WHEREAS, The Town of Germantown desires to apply for \$300,000 in financial assistance through the 2023 DEC Community Forest Conservation Grant Program, a reimbursement grant; and

WHEREAS, the application proposes funding for acquisition of land to establish a community forest for public benefit; and

WHEREAS, this community forest will provide recreation (hiking, biking, wildlife observation, environmental education), it will provide a refuge for native plants and animals, it will be easily accessible addition to Town parkland, and it will extend the park's existing trail network; and

WHEREAS, the property located at the intersection of Maple Ave. and Maple Ave. Ext. in Germantown (Tax ID: 158.-1-33; GPS: 42.1427/-73.8811) is available for fee title acquisition and the landowner wishes to sell the land to the Town of Germantown for the purpose of establishing a community forest.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Germantown approves and endorses the application for the 2023 DEC Community Forest Conservation Grant Program and, recognizing this is a reimbursement grant that will require funding upfront, commits to passing a budget of \$17,920.00 (closing costs estimated at \$5920; purchase price contribution of \$12,000) to support this \$333,520 project. In addition, the Town commits to providing 400 hours of in-kind contribution for the DPW work (over a 3-year period) for this project. (Figures here are based on an estimated purchase price of \$312, 000; the actual price has not yet been negotiated with the landowner.)

Passed by the vote of Town Board members voting in favor thereof:

Affirmative: All Aye

Negative:

Abstain:

RESOLVED this 10th day of October, 2023

I, Joyce Vale, do hereby certify that resolution was passed at a meeting of the Town Board held on Oct. 10, 2023, and is on file and of record, and that said resolution has not been altered, amended, or revoked and is in full force and effect.

Supervisor Helsley said this may need to go into the budget.

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

New Business

- Additional 2024 Budget workshop? Budget workshop date set for Monday, October 16, 2023 at 5:30pm.
- Proposed Conservation Subdivision- Jen Crawford. Jen sent the draft subdivision map to the Town Board. What Jen is asking if the Town would be the recipient of the land and to hold the conservation easements. Jen talked to Scenic Hudson and the Columbia County Land Conservancy they are both not interested in short term. Jen said CLC advised to relocate the conservation area to protect the bluff and the river views. Corinne explained the Town Board as holder of the easement would have enforcement responsibilities. There will be a spot left for an overlook. Jen would like to see access to the land via crosswalk from Palatine Park Road across 9G. Corinne said Jen will have to go through the process with the Planning Board. Corinne also said the town will have to accept the deed and how to deal with the extending sewer it will all be part of the Planning Board final approval. Councilmember Suarez is in favor. Corinne said the board does not have to approve this tonight. Corinne will let the Planning board know at their next meeting the town board is in support.
- LWRP proposed Local Laws. Jen said the goal is schedule a workshop on this. Jen said there is a Waterfront Consistency Law that they have to pass for enforcement. The goal is finishing LWRP by May 2024. Date set for January 4, 2024 at 6pm for the LWRP workshop, Re-organizational meeting will be held at 5:30pm on January 4, 2024. Jen will send drafts to the town board. Jen thanked all of the volunteers on the committee.
- Proposed signage for Main Street and Church Avenue crosswalks and children signs. Councilmember Suarez spoke with Dale in regards to signage. Councilmember Suarez said people are not complying with the speed signs or the signs are out of service. Councilmember Suarez would like to propose to the town board requesting a sign "We Love Our Kids Please Slow Down" somewhere on Main Street and also signs in the crosswalks in the hamlet. Supervisor Helsley said we would request the signage and the County would advise where to put them.

Supervisor's Report

- Oktoberfest- 10/21/23- Noon to 10pm? Beer booth is open from 1pm to 9pm. Huge thank you to Jim Rushmore, Janice Mullins, Clerk Vale and all of the volunteers. Very pleased to see the Germantown Park Commissions involvement as well.
- Holiday Glow scheduled for 12/9/23. Full day of events in the planning, beginning at the Kellner Activity Building and preceding to the Hamlet for the tree lighting. Volunteers are welcome. Please contact Councilmember Suarez and the Park Commission for further details.
- There will be a fundraiser and collection event for a Catskill family with local ties that lost everything in a house fire recently on 10/28 at the Kellner Activity Building. More details to follow. Keep an eye on the town FB page and website for details. Any help is greatly appreciated.
- Election Day is Tuesday, November 7. Get out and vote.

Comments from Councilmembers

Councilman Christian mentioned on Thursday at Lasher Park, Columbia Land Conservancy and DEC they worked with students from Hudson schools study fish in the river and measure the speed of the current.

Comments and Questions from the public

Martin Overington said hopefully they will get the trees planted in Cheviot Park this month. Martin thanked the Parks Commission and the Town for their support. Martin is concerned about Amtrak storing their equipment there. Supervisor Helsley will reach out to Amtrak.

Tom Shannon said with his monthly report he sent in an update with Bard's memorandum and would like some guidance with that. Corinne recommended sending it to the town's insurance broker. Supervisor Helsley will reach out to Fingar Insurance. Tom also mentioned at the next budget workshop could they budget money for the chimney repair at the Parsonage. Tom said the pile of railroad ties were removed from Cheviot today.

Dale said he sent a letter and pictures to NYS in regards to the pot hole at the intersection of 9G and Main Street. They will be doing research and find out what annuity is responsible. Supervisor Helsley thanked Dale.

Motion to enter into executive session at 8:34pm made by Councilman Kukon, seconded by Councilmember Suarez, with all in favor and none opposed.

Motion to exit executive session at 9:01pm made by Councilmember Suarez, seconded by Councilman Sullivan, with all in favor and none opposed.

Supervisor Helsley then read the following Resolution:

TOWN BOARD
TOWN OF GERMANTOWN
COLUMBIA COUNTY, NEW YORK
Dated: October 10, 2023

WHEREAS, the bargaining teams for UPSEU and the Town of Germantown have executed a Memorandum of Agreement reflecting a tentative agreement to the terms of a new Collective Bargaining Agreement commencing January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2026, a copy of which is annexed to this Resolution.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Memorandum of Agreement is approved and the Town Supervisor, in consultation with the Town Attorney, shall execute a new Collective Bargaining Agreement substantially conforming to the terms annexed to this Resolution, and shall take all steps reasonable and necessary to implement the intent of this Resolution.

On a motion by Councilman Kukon, and seconded by Councilmember Suarez and having been approved by a majority of the Board, this Resolution was declared duly adopted by the Town of Germantown Town Board.

Councilman Sullivan abstained.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:04pm made by Councilman Sullivan, seconded by Councilmember Suarez, with all in favor and none opposed.

Respectfully submitted,