

History Advisory Committee

October 28th, 2023

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

- Rezoning Committee: Tom spoke briefly at the Oct. 5th committee meeting about codifying demolition permit procedure, protecting the five known cemeteries located on private land, and providing a layer of review for permits on approximately seventy historic properties. Tony said the committee is hoping to have a plan completed by January or February.
- Hover Foundation Grant 2024: Our request for \$7,220 was granted in full. The projects include \$2,000 for chimney repair at the Parsonage, \$2,100 for D-2 biological solution for gravestone cleaning, and \$3,120 for two NYS style historic markers - one at Ice House Landing and one for the 1923 fire in the pocket park. FOHG is the 501(c)3 sponsor.
- Eagle Scout Project: Hugh Black and other Eagle Scouts recently completed work on the Parsonage grounds including painting the garden fence, rehabbing the existing park bench, purchasing an additional park bench, painting the hitching post, cutting brush, and weed whacking. Hugh had about \$700 leftover from his Eagle Scout project GoFundMe campaign and he donated it to FOHG for Parsonage upkeep.
- Hudson River Bank and Trust Grant: Tom recently drafted and Ethan is currently reviewing a grant request to the HRBT Foundation. It is for \$7,500 to be put toward rebuilding the eastern chimney and repointing the western chimney on the Parsonage. Part of the grant is a draft scope of work that will eventually be issued in a RFP by the Town of Germantown. FOHG is the 501(c)3 sponsor.
- Pomeroy Foundation new transportation marker grant program: the next opportunity to submit a letter of intent will be in April 2024. We will work on choosing a particular site, as well as researching and writing an application in the interim.
- Notable visits to the Parsonage in the last week: Julia Van Duijvenvoorde, a doctoral candidate studying the Palatine migration visited Christopher, Alvin, and Rich at the Parsonage. Alvin also gave a tour to several Petrie family descendants from far flung locales.
- Bank of Greene County grant: the plan is to combine a history of Methodism in Germantown written by Rev. G.F. Wells in 1935 with the text of the Methodist Church anniversary pamphlet from 1965, and write a new foreword covering 1965-2010 and the closure of the church. Tony suggested reaching out to Karen Targrove for help with the

printing process. Tom will speak with her this week. FOHG is the 501(c)3 sponsor for this \$1,000 grant.

- Drone footage: Tony has raised \$5,000 for FOHG to conduct more drone footage of historic areas in Germantown. The current focus is on Cheviot Park, Ice House Landing, and Lower Main Street.
- Recent donations: a Minie ball from the Cedar Creek battlefield from Levi Rifenburg. (Several Germantown soldiers were captured during the early stages of the Battle of Cedar Creek). A large number of photographs and some documents from Susan Potts Rifenburg. Susan's donation also included a good amount of old photos from the late Jeanette Best Danowsky's home. A handful of photos and documents from Mary Howell, including a photo of the Cold Spring district school in Livingston and an expulsion letter from the district school that Helen Henderson started her teaching career at.
- Events:
 - Dec. 2nd, 4 PM Reformed Church stained glass windows lecture.
 - Early Dec., Garden Club Christmas event at Parsonage.
 - Possible campfire evening at the Parsonage in the next few weeks, weather permitting.
 - Commemoration of the centennial of the Nov. 14, 1923 fire on Main St. Tony will reach out to the Fire Dept. to see if they want to combine efforts on this. Tom will see if there is any interest at GCS.
 - Zoom history talks at Germantown Library, this winter TBD. North Germantown, 1923 fire, and groundwater issues will be the topics.