

History Advisory Committee
Dec. 16, 2023

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

- No meeting was held in November due to proximity of the Thanksgiving holiday.
- We discussed the annual report draft. Mostly added a few goals for 2024 including participation in the townwide garage sale, addressing the priority list in the building condition report when it arrives, doing more with our website, organization and storage.
- Rich and Tom spent down the remaining funds from Columbia County Historical Society and the Pomeroy Foundation. CCHS funds purchased about \$340 in paint for historic signs, wet and forget for the concrete walkways at the Parsonage, paint brushes, and wire brushes. With the \$3,000 in Pomeroy funds, Rich purchased two laptops, a scanner, two monitors, a voice recorder, two surge protection power strips, and two wireless mice.
- Upcoming grant opportunities: Bank of Greene County, due Jan. 15th. Berkshire Taconic Community Impact grant, due Feb. 15th. Hudson River Bank and Trust, Community Bank, and Stewart's Shops, all rolling deadlines. CCHS Re-grant program, usually in January. Americana Corner, \$10K request to help with the Parsonage roof, submitted Thursday, Dec. 14th.
- Jen Palmentiero, of Southeast NY Library Resources Council, will be visiting briefly on Dec. 20th to pick up the laptop she loaned us for most of this year. CCHS recently joined NY Heritage. CC Historian's Office will join sometime in 2024 after some digitization work is completed.
- Tom was appointed Chair of the Columbia County 250th Committee and interim County Historian on December 7th.
- Signing off on the Bard Archaeology MOU is on the agenda for the Town Board's end of year meeting.
- DEC grant: The Town of Germantown was awarded \$240K to acquire the 23 acres north of the Parsonage from Bard College as part of the Community Forest grant program. Thanks to Kaare Christian and Jan Borchert who worked on the grant application and all who helped wrangle support from our elected representatives. Next step for us is to help develop a recreation plan for the parcel.
- 2023 Hover grant: Sharon, Treasurer of FOHG, ordered 50 gallons of D2 which is now on hand at the Parsonage for the 2024 season. She also placed orders at Catskills

Castings for 1923 Fire and Ice House Landing historic signs. There remains a little over \$2K from this grant.

- The Rev. Haeger's Vision Legends and Lore sign was installed by Tom in the First Reformed Cemetery a few weeks ago.
- Rezoning Committee: Tony gave an update on the committee work and timetable for adoption. The consultants are working on a map of the historic structures identified and will give the History Department paper and digital copies when complete.
- Events: Three winter talks at the Germantown Library coming up, all at 5:30 PM: Jan. 25th, 1923 Fire on Main St.; Feb. 29th, History of North Germantown; March 28th, Germantown groundwater issues through the years. The committee will brainstorm ideas for the Path Through History weekends and Hudson River Ramble in 2024.
- Donations: Rich digitized an assortment of wedding and baptism invites from his family. We discussed possible options for the costumes created by Adrienne Westmore in 2010. Tom will reach out to her to see what she would prefer.