

History Advisory Committee

Jan. 27th, 2024

Attendance: Tony Albino, Richard Coons, Ethan Dickerman, William Shannon, Yvonne Crawford, Alvin Sheffer, Tom Shannon

- We discussed updating the official roster of the History Advisory Committee to include all present at this meeting plus Donald Dubac.
- Bank of Greene County grant: our application for \$1,000 to send off our newspaper collection to be digitized was submitted a few weeks ago through FOHG.
- Ethan submitted the mandatory feedback form for the Hover Foundation grant awarded in October 2023.
- Tony gave an update on the Rezoning Committee's work pertaining to history and preservation. This led to discussion of a potential building inventory of the entire town.
- We brainstormed a list of volunteer opportunities at the History Department: weeding out any remaining collections material that has no connection to local or regional history, digitization, developing finding aids, grant writing, adding material to NY Heritage, grounds work parties, regular cleaning of the Parsonage, visiting and documenting historic houses.
- Columbia County Historical Society Re-grant program: will have to apply in the next month or so. Up to \$500 available.
- Tom gave a quick update of ColumbiaNY250 efforts including subcommittee meetings coming up in February, the planned event at the Chatham Fairgrounds on July 4-5, 2026, and a potential book with contributions from several CC historians.
- NAGPRA issue: A couple of weeks ago, Tom came across a box labeled "real skull" in the Town Records Retention Room. It is believed to be the partial skull and other bone fragments of a Native American burial disturbed during construction of a house addition on Moore Road in late 1989 or early 1990. Initially treated as a homicide case, a forensics report from that time identified the

remains as a Native American man in his late 30's, who died sometime between 1690 and 1790. Ethan has been researching how to appropriately comply with NAGPRA in light of this discovery.

- Donations: Denis Crawford lent a bag full of documents to digitize. Jan Rogers donated a large tub of old photographs and documents.

- Events:
 - History of North Germantown, Feb. 29th, 5:30 PM G'town Library
 - Groundwater Issues, March 28th, 5:30 PM G'town Library
 - Zoom talk with Philip Otterness, Feb. 7th, 7 PM
 - PalAm national conference, June 6-9th, Albany, NY
 - Path Through History Event, Fathers Day weekend, TBD