

History Advisory Committee  
Feb. 24th, 2024

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

- NAGPRA issue: next step is to email the state and federal NAGPRA officials for guidance on how to proceed. See January committee notes for background.
- Quick update on ColumbiaNY250 efforts: the events subcommittee is leaning toward moving the July 4th, 2026 event to Flag Day in Hudson, 2026. A variety of factors behind this including the anticipated scarcity of reenactors, fireworks companies, and emergency personnel that weekend. A resolution to produce a ColumbiaNY250 logo was passed by the County Gov't Comm. and heads to the full BoS next. Tom sent a survey regarding 250th efforts to all CC elected officials.
- What do we want to do at the Town level for the 250th? Ideas included fresh research on local involvement, a monument, and a makerspace event about how to make clothing items of that era.
- Americana Corner grant: our request for \$10K to put toward roof replacement at the Parsonage was turned down. Feedback on the grant mentioned that our social media numbers and only being open regularly for 3 hours a week didn't compare favorably with other applicants. There is a "create" category for this grant that assists with enhancing the visibility of historic sites. We'll try this next time around.
- Pomeroy Foundation transportation sign grant: the next round opens March 15th. We will make an application for one dedicated to the Half-Moon Anchorage, assuming that structures that no longer exist are eligible for this program.
- Columbia County Historical Society re-grant program: Tom will submit a request for approximately \$450 for some combination of archive boxes, D-2, and Photoshop Elements if it becomes available through TechSoup.
- Town Clerk Records Room grant: Tom and Joyce Vale are working on a Local Government Records Management Improvement Fund Grant application for improvements to the Town records retention room. Due date is March 11th.
- A Building Condition Report on the Parsonage was completed recently by Crawford and Stearns with funding from the J.M. Kaplan Fund and Friends of Historic Germantown. A digital copy is attached to these notes.
- Recent donations: Crawford and Associates recently donated 4 lateral filing cabinets in good working condition and much more user friendly than our existing ones.

- Events:
  - History of North Germantown, Feb. 29th, 5:30 PM G'town Library
  - Groundwater Issues, March 28th, 5:30 PM G'town Library
  - PATH through History weekend in June (or some nearby weekend): open house at the Clarkson Chapel and a walking tour of the Second Lutheran Cemetery.