

Minutes of July 9, 2024, Germantown Town Board meeting, held in the Germantown Town Hall, 50 Palatine Park Road, Germantown, NY and via Zoom, commencing at 7:00pm.

Present: Supervisor Helsley  
Councilman Sullivan  
Councilman Kukon  
Councilmember Suarez  
  
Town Attorney, Corinne Smith

Present via Zoom: Councilman Christian

Recorded by: Town Clerk, Joyce Vale

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

Motion to approve June 11, 2024 meeting minutes made by Councilmember Suarez, seconded by Councilman Kukon, with all in favor and none opposed.

Review of Financial Reports- Comments, Questions. Supervisor Helsley said May and June financial reports just came in for town board members to look over.

Motion to pay the audited bills for July 2024 made by Councilman Sullivan, seconded by Councilman Kukon, with all in favor and none opposed.

#### **Written Communications to the Town Clerk**

Town Clerk received Highway and History reports.

#### JULY REPORT

- 1-STARTED PUTTING SHOULDERS ON FORD AND EASTERN PARKWAY
- 2-CLEANED OUT FRONT OF BEACHHOUSE
- 3-PUT 40 YDS OF MULCH DOWN IN PLAYGROUND
- 4-HAULED SCREENFILL
- 5-HAULED STONE FOR OIL AND STONING
- 6-GOT GROUNDS READY FOR 4TH OF JULY CELEBRATION
- 7-CLEANED GROUNDS AFTER CELEBRATION
- 8-BEACHHOUSE BATHROOMS WERE VANDALIZED TWICE
- 9-WANT TO THANK SEAN FROM ALMSTEAD NURSERY FOR DONATING THE MULCH FOR THE FLOWER BED

ANTHONY CIDRAS  
HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT

History Advisory Committee  
June 29, 2024

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

- No meetings were held in April or May due to schedule conflicts.
- The letter of intent to the Hover Foundation is due on July 1<sup>st</sup>. Will ask them for 20k to put towards a new roof on the Parsonage. Discussion about roofing materials. Defer to the recent building conditions report.

- Hudson River Valley Ramble, lasts the entire month of September. Need to think of an event. Possibly tie into the Lafayette 200 timeline. We have done kayak trips in the past but they are very dependent on the weather.
- PATH Through History weekend, Oct. 11-13. Possibly a campfire evening at the Parsonage if no conflicts with other town events.
- We brainstormed some ideas for how to celebrate the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the USA in 2026 at the town level. Talked about a monument for the soldiers from German Camp, lectures, and some other ideas.
- Palatines to America Fall Seminar, Oct. 5<sup>th</sup>, tentatively planned to be held in Germantown. It is also the scheduled date for Oktoberfest. Talked about potential speakers and historic sites to visit.
- There will be a Consider the Source NY workshop held on July 18<sup>th</sup> at Questar III headquarters. It is for local historians and teachers. Tom and the whole GCS social studies department will be there. The workshop also pertains to becoming a Seal of Civic Readiness school, a status which GCS is applying for.
- GCS will celebrate its centennial in September 2024. Ideas on our end include a newspaper column and a chronology of when all the various district schools were absorbed into the central school.
- The Bank of Greene County recently awarded \$1,000 to the History Department via FOHG to digitize our newspaper collections. Will have to reach out and get a quote soon.
- Tom is just about done editing a mash up of two previously written histories of Methodism in Germantown. Need to write a new section bringing the history up to 2010, then send it off to the printer. Previously awarded BOGC grant funds will pay for this.
- Archaeology update: no recent news regarding details of the MOU from Bard College or Dr. Lindner that Tom is aware of. There are open units in the basement hearth and a substantial number of previously recovered artifacts in the basement still at this time. Josalyn Ferguson of the NYS SHPO has been in touch and suggested that the History Department, and Town generally, request an opinion on potential solutions to the impasse from SHPO. A draft letter making that request is attached to these minutes.
- Tony and Tom discussed the strong possibility of doing ground penetrating radar at the First Reformed Cemetery this year. They have been working on a draft proposal to present to the Town Board. Will have it finalized ASAP.
- Chimney repair: Hank secured a verbal quote from a local contractor. We are working on getting the contractor to submit a written version to Anthony to present to the Town Board.
- Bard parcel acquisition process: The recreation plan was commented on favorably by DEC representatives, with just a handful of minor items to address. Among other things, they mentioned "we love the amount of information included about the town and parcel's history- I've never seen a more comprehensive historical perspective on these."
- The History Department will have a display table at the Germantown Independence Day celebration on July 6<sup>th</sup> from 4PM to 7:45PM.
- Upcoming work party to-do's: install the 1923 Fire and Ice House Landing signs, continue gravestone cleaning, another yard work day at the Parsonage soon.

## **Old Business**

- Kellner Activity Building- Bids due Friday, July 12<sup>th</sup> at 1PM. Corinne said she is not sure why contractors aren't bidding and that we may need an engineer to do the specs. Corinne also said if the town doesn't receive any bids she will look into if the town could declare a sole source and because we are using ARPA funds this makes it more complicated. Councilmember Suarez asked if we received a bid on July 12<sup>th</sup> would we accept the bid at the August town board meeting? Supervisor Helsley answered "yes" and the work would start after camp is over.
- Town Hall roof- Bids are due Friday, July 12<sup>th</sup> at 1PM
- SPEDES permit- Still under DEC review.
- Salt Shed roof solar array- Ready for RFP. Corinne has to finalize the RFP then she will send to the CSC committee for their review. Supervisor Helsley would also like to look at the RFP as well. Councilman Christian asked if the CSC agrees with the scope Corinne put in could we go ahead and approve the RFP before the next town board meeting? Corinne answered that we do not have to wait.
- Bard Parcel. Next step is to have the parcel surveyed- 2 proposals received
  1. Crawford Engineering- \$5,400
  2. Holtz Surveying- \$5,200

Supervisor Helsley recommended going with Crawford Engineering because their proposal includes staking of any major corners and Holtz does not and would bill at \$150/ hour.

Motion to accept the proposal from Crawford Engineering in the amount of \$5,400 made by Councilman Kukon, seconded by Councilmember Suarez, with all in favor and none opposed.

- Local Law B- Designation of Fire Lanes. Councilmember Suarez asked how do you determine where the fire lane goes? Corinne said she drafted the law starting the fire lane at the end of the sidewalk in front of Central House past the driveway entrance and goes through the parking lot to the end of their property just on the shoulder of the road. Corinne reached out to the County Attorney to confirm before the next meeting so there aren't any issues. Supervisor Helsley said he would see the County Attorney tomorrow and if there were any questions he would let Corinne know. Public Hearing set for August 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm with the Town Board meeting immediately following.
- Review Roe Jan Park proposal from Germantown Park Commission. Councilman Christian said the plan changed slightly from the last time minus the AC power and WiFi. Supervisor Helsley said the Amy Jo Davison has spoken to a few contractors. Corinne said make sure that quotes are brought to the town board to approve the contractor. Councilman Christian said the contractor is volunteering to do the work. Corinne said then they don't need town board approval. Corinne just reminded them to make sure they get quotes on the materials used.

### **New Business**

- Approval of additional Camp Palatine Counselor Brooke Hapeman and CIT Logan Burleigh. Motion to approve Camp Counselor Brooke Hapeman and CIT Logan Burleigh made by Councilman Sullivan, seconded by Councilman Kukon, with all in favor and none opposed.
- Install a check valve on the sewer line at 8 Main Street to prevent backup into the residence in the event of a Pump Station failure or overflow.
  1. Proposal from Visage Construction- \$4465
  2. Scoob's Excavation- Daily Rate of \$2,200 and the town is to provide all materials.

Supervisor Helsley recommended Visage because they are providing everything. Motion to approve the proposal from Visage Construction in the amount of \$4,465 made by Councilman Sullivan, seconded by Councilman Kukon, with all in favor and none opposed.

- Authorization to purchase a new Flag Pole for Lasher Memorial Park. Review of quotes received or authorize purchase not to exceed. Supervisor Helsley said the price of the flagpole is \$4,066 and he will put in a claim to the insurance company with the town

being responsible for the amount of \$2,500. Councilman Kukon reminded Supervisor Helsley to check into the warrantee. Supervisor Helsley said he will check with the company. Councilman Sullivan commented there are still no lights at the park. Councilmember Suarez suggested discussing the lights at budget time. Motion to approve the purchase the flagpole in the amount of \$4,066 made by Councilman Sullivan, seconded by Councilman Kukon, with all in favor and none opposed.

- Donation to Sylvia Center for the cooking class held at Camp Palatine. Suggested donation amount. Same as last year?  
Town Board agreed to donate \$750.00 the same amount as last year.
- Approve the use of Ground Penetrating Radar at the First Reformed Cemetery. Tom Shannon said this project is to find stones missing from the 1950's. Tony Albino said the History department will volunteer, Larry Brown will provide the equipment and Cornell Cooperative Extension will be involved. Corinne said she doesn't think insurance is an issue. Tony said if this ground penetrating radar is a success they will use this in other cemeteries. Tom mentioned there are empty spots in the Cheviot cemetery.  
Motion to approve the use of Ground Penetrating Radar at the First Reformed Cemetery made by Councilmember Suarez, seconded by Councilman Kukon, with all in favor and none opposed.

### **Supervisor's Report**

- Independence Day Event- July 6, 2024. Thank you to all of the volunteers and vendors. Huge thank you to Councilmember Suarez, Jami DelPozzo, Clerk Vale for their hard work and coordination. Supervisor Helsley said that we made about the same amount of money as last year's event.
- Jordan Stoner will be performing Saturday, July 13, 2024 6-9PM- Booked as the rain date performer.

### **Comments from Councilmembers**

Councilmember Suarez said the Park Commission has been talking for years about bringing back the Haunted Hay Rides. The dates they have discussed are Saturday, October 19<sup>th</sup> or Saturday, October 26<sup>th</sup> and they are not sure if they want to combine efforts with Trunk or Treat at GCS. Councilmember Suarez would like to know what the town's ability is to help with this event? Supervisor Helsley will talk with Anthony. Councilmember Suarez said the next Park Commission meeting is July 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6pm.

Supervisor Helsley forgot to add Jen & Nabal getting married on the grounds on August 3<sup>rd</sup>. Supervisor Helsley said Jen had sent a site plan to the town board. Supervisor Helsley said the town does not own the grounds that the Transfer Station is on and that Jen and Nabal would need to contact Columbia County Solid Waste to ask for permission for parking. Supervisor Helsley gave Nabal the contact at Solid Waste, Wendy Madsen and her phone number, 518-828-2737

### **Comments and Questions from the public**

Tom Shannon said a contractor is interested in fixing the chimney and gave a verbal quote over \$10,000. Corinne said they will need at least 3 quotes. Supervisor Helsley will reach out to other contractors and document it. Tom said he has a couple of grants out to fix the roof of the Parsonage. Tom looked into asphalt shingle mimicking the cedar shake shingles that are on the roof now and that the asphalt shingles are cheaper. Supervisor Helsley will sign the letter to SHPO and send it over to Tom. Tom brought up the 2 new historic signs, one at the Ice House Landing and the other is in the pocket park by Fingar Insurance.

Tony Albino asked about the Diner? Supervisor Helsley doesn't really know what's going on with the Diner other than filming taking place on site. Supervisor Helsley heard that the owner has to sell Charlie O's first before he opens the Diner. Supervisor Helsley said he would find out what's going on.

Motion to adjourn at 7:42pm made by Councilmember Suarez, seconded by Councilman Kukon, with all in favor and none opposed.

Respectfully submitted,