

History Advisory Committee
July 27, 2024

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

- The ground penetrating radar project at the First Reformed Cemetery is scheduled for August 28th through 31st. We need an average of 4 volunteers per day.
- Hover grant wrap up: Application asking for 20K will be submitted by Aug. 1st. A roofing contractor stopped by the Parsonage recently and suggested that applying a metal roof directly over the existing roof may be comparable in cost to tearing off and replacing with an asphalt shingle roof. Will ask the Town board if there is any way to accommodate that possibility in a potential RFP. Will also submit grant applications to the Hudson River Bank and Trust Foundation and possibly J.M. Kaplan Fund.
- Hank received a verbal quote to fix the chimneys on the Parsonage. We are still trying to nail down a written quote to submit to the Town Board. We need to demonstrate efforts to secure quotes from at least three other contractors.
- New historic signs have been installed in the last few weeks at Ice House Landing and in the pocket park to commemorate the 1923 fire on Main St. Alvin suggested that we do an unveiling ceremony for one or both of them.
- Tom sent the previously discussed letter asking for guidance from the State Historic Preservation Office regarding the archaeology MOU with Bard College. The letter was sent to Josalyn Ferguson on July 27th.
- PATH through History Weekend, Oct. 11-13. We'll do a campfire evening at the Parsonage on Friday, Oct. 11th, starting at 5 PM. Will ask Matthew Mercier if he wants to do a reading from his recently published book.
- Hudson River Valley Ramble. Tom will lead a hike through the KEEP preserve focused on Rockefeller family history, Sept. 22nd at 2 PM.
- Methodism history pamphlet: Tom and Rich are tracking down some post-1962 details to bring the previously written histories up to 2010 when the church closed. The text alone runs 12 single-spaced pages in Word at the moment, before adding photos.
- The ColumbiaNY250 Education Subcommittee is working on a book featuring writings about events in the various towns during the Revolutionary War. Tom is working on chapters about Germantown and Loyalist William Smith Jr.'s time at the Hermitage and subsequent memoirs. Submissions are due in February. Tom and Tom Moreland, Austerlitz Historian, will head up the editing team.

- Need to pay the New York Heritage bill in August. Tom will submit the bill to the Town Board for consideration. It is an annual fee of a little over \$500.
- Upcoming work parties: we will have more gravestone cleaning days coming up, weather depending. Another yard work day. Bring the excess stone on the western edge of the property to Ice House Landing. GPR days on August 28th - 31st.
- Recent donations: William Hubert's cavalry uniform coat from WWI, donated by Elaine Hubert Harwood.