

History Advisory Committee
June 29, 2024

Attendance: Yvonne Crowth, 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 1st. 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 250th 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. 5th, 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 18th 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 6th from 4 PM to 7:45 PM.
- 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.