

Minutes of September 10, 2024, Germantown Town Board meeting, held in the Germantown Town Hall, 50 Palatine Park Road, Germantown, NY and via Zoom, commencing at 6:48pm.

Present: Supervisor Helsley
Councilman Sullivan
Councilman Kukon
Councilmember Suarez
Councilman Christian

Town Attorney, Corinne Smith

Recorded by: Town Clerk, Joyce Vale

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

Supervisor Helsley asked for a moment of silence in honor of the recent passing of former DA Paul Czajka.

Motion to approve the August 13, 2024, Public Hearing and Town Board meeting minutes. Councilman Christian asked for the minutes to be amended in the public comment section from "Matthew Mercier received a grant" change to "Matthew Mercier has been working on a grant that the town has received".

Motion to approve the August 13, 2024 Public Hearing and the amended Town Board meeting minutes made by Councilmember Suarez, seconded by Councilman Kukon, with all in favor and none opposed.

Review of Financial Reports- Comments, Questions. No comments from Council.

Motion to pay the audited bills for September 2024. Motion to pay the audited bills for September 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 monthly reports from History and Highway departments.

History Advisory Committee
August 31, 2024

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

- Ground penetrating radar project: Tony gave an update. Dr. Larry Brown had to postpone the project due to medical issues. Will update everyone if we are able to complete the project this autumn. Alvin suggested some other professionals who might be interested in similar projects.
- Chimney update: the Town Board approved Dave Bathrick Masonry's quote. Tom reached out to Anthony with the news. Hank will follow up with Dave Bathrick.
- GCS centennial: Tom submitted a column to the Columbia Paper. The GCS History Club is working on a time capsule that will be buried at the end of this school year.
- Legends and Lore signage: Tom suggested a Legends and Lore sign about an ox roast said to have been held on the hill in what is now Hettling Park after news of victory at Yorktown reached Clermont in 1781. Will reach out to Dawn Bronson.
- Chris Nolan project: Chris Nolan, Dawn, Tom and two representatives of the Stockbridge Munsee met on Zoom recently to discuss a potential Livingston-Clermont-Germantown focused project highlighting Mohican history. Two ideas that came out of it are doing a public appeal to people who have private collections of projectile points and other artifacts to let us photograph and document them. An annotated bibliography of quality secondary works about the Mohicans was also suggested.

- NAGPRA process: Tom is not sure if any formal repatriation requests were received by the Town after the notice was published in the Federal Register in July. If that is the case, the next step is unclear.
- Austerlitz Historian, Tom Moreland, will step down from his post in October due to health issues. Tom Shannon will take over Tom Moreland's role as the facilitator of quarterly meetings of the Columbia County historians.
- Tom mentioned the NPS Semiquincentennial Grant Program and will research the opportunity before next month's meeting.
- Oral histories: Tom picked up a tripod and wireless microphones. We will work on scheduling one interview every Saturday morning and see how that works out.
- Front garden: Yvonne spoke the work she has done recently in the front garden, pulling out grapevines and other weeds while saving the rose bushes.
- Recent donations: Steven Rockefeller donated a nice wooden and glass display case, along with much printed material about American history bound for the GCS high school library. Tom recently picked up all of the Columbia County- related materials at Mary Howell's house and has been working on sorting it all by town. In that massive batch of material were many more original William Wilson letters from the late 1700s and early 1800s. Wilson was Chancellor Livingston's overseer, responsible for the day to day operations of his estate. We all agreed that after digitizing them, we should reach out to the Clements Library at the University of Michigan about donating them there, where the vast majority of Wilson family papers reside.
- Upcoming Events:
 - Sept. 14th, 10AM- Tom will do a Zoom presentation about the Hank Jones collection and the lost graveyards of East and West Camp for the Ohio Chapter of Palatines to America.
 - Sept. 14th, 12PM- Tom will talk briefly at "Tea at Clermont" about the Marquis de Lafayette's Sept. 16th, 1824 farewell tour visit to Clermont and Arryl House.
 - Sept. 22nd, 2PM, PATH weekend, Rockefeller History walk at KEEP preserve.
 - Sept. 28th, 5PM to 9PM- WAC get together at Ice House Landing.
 - Oct. 5th, 10AM to 6PM- NY Chapter Palatines to America Fall Seminar at the Parsonage and Germantown Library.
 - Oct. 11th, 5PM to 9PM- A Phantasmagoric Dusk: campfire and other activities at the Parsonage. Readings by Gabe Balkan and Matt Mercier.
 - Nov 9th, time TBD- Tom and Emily Majer event at Quittner.

Old Business

- Kellner Activity Building. Contract is signed awaiting final Bond to be issued. Meeting with the contractor held on site on Monday, September 9th. Corinne mentioned the project needs to be completed by December 6th.
- SPEDES permit- Still under DEC review.
- Salt Shed roof Solar array- RFP has been reviewed by the accountant – Brian suggested reducing the estimated amount of direct pay and he wasn't sure how much the town would be reimbursed by the IRS. Supervisor Helsley said if the town didn't get the reimbursement we would be liable for \$21,000. Councilman Kukon would like to see

it match the grant. Councilman Christian said long term it will be saving the town money. Councilman Kukon suggested getting some advice. Supervisor Helsley will follow up the New Lebanon Supervisor Houghtaling in regards to reimbursement. Councilman Christian suggested getting Christina and Matthew to help. Corinne suggested Councilman Christian talk directly to the accountant since he knows how this estimate came about.

- Bard Parcel. Conkra appraisals has requested a discounted amount of \$750 (from \$1500) to prepare the narrative needed. Councilman Kukon asked about the restrictions? Corinne sent to DEC for them to look into to make sure there are no deed restrictions. Corinne explained the definition of wholly agricultural or wholly residential and whether forestry falls under agriculture. Corinne said releasing deed restrictions could be a lengthy process. Supervisor Helsley said he would amend the motion once heard back.

Motion to approve the expenditure of \$3,500.00 to Crawford and Associates to perform the environmental assessment made by Councilmember Suarez, seconded by Councilman Kukon, with all in favor and none opposed.

- Local Law B- Designation of Fire Lanes. Tabled until next month.
- Amtrak correspondence- WAC letter has been amended to request a response and sent to the contact provided by Jen Crawford. Supervisor Helsley reported Amtrak responded in regards to the boundary the next day.

New Business

- Vandalism at Palatine Park. Installation of cameras. A suggestion was made for a cloud based system <https://www.verkada.com/>. Cost is about \$200 per year per camera. Tony Albino commented this is an excellent system. Supervisor Helsley said we need to figure out how many cameras we will need and the cost. Tony will send Supervisor Helsley the contact at verkada.
- Set a date for a budget workshop. Corinne reminded the town board the budget needed to be approved by November 7th. Budget workshop was set for October 22, 2024 at 6pm. Budget Public Hearing was set for October 29, 2024 at 6pm. Corinne then said the budget could be adopted at the November Town Board meeting.

Supervisor's Report

- 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony beginning at 8:46AM. The 23rd Anniversary.
- Welcome: Supervisor Helsley
- God Bless America: Dennis Nesel
- Remarks: Local Representatives (Didi Barrett)
- National Anthem: Supervisor Helsley
- Taps: American Legion
- Final Remarks: Supervisor Helsley

Comments from Councilmembers

Councilman Christian would like to get in touch with DEC in regards to Lasher Park plans. Supervisor Helsley and Councilman Christian will meet with DEC.

Comments and Questions from the public

Tom Shannon said NAGRA completed step 6 next is step 7 to respond. Corinne will circulate an email for request of repatriation then they can do the notice of intent.

Motion to enter into executive session at 7:30pm made by Councilmember Suarez, seconded by Councilman Sullivan, with all in favor and none opposed.

Motion to exit executive session at 7:36pm made by Councilmember Suarez, seconded by Councilman Kukon, with all in favor and none opposed.

Town Board meeting adjourned at 7:36pm.

Respectfully submitted,