

Minutes of December 10, 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
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 for the passing of Claude DiMauro.

Motion to approve the November 12, 2024 Public Hearing and 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. Supervisor Helsley just received the reports today. He will set up a meeting with the accountant.

Motion to pay the audited bills for December 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 report from the Highway and History departments. Town Clerk also received a letter from Archtop Fiber in regards to cable television services, the letter is on file in the Clerk's office.

History Department Update December 10th, 2024

- Dave Bathrick Masonry submitted the bill for the chimney work completed during the week of 10/14-10/18. Will submit the expenditure according to the Town procurement policy if it hasn't already been done by the Highway Superintendent.
- Upcoming grants: Tom will submit inquiry letters to the Hudson River Bank and Trust Foundation, Summerhill Foundation, and the J.M. Kaplan Fund for assistance with replacing the roof at the Parsonage and other maintenance projects. The Bank of Greene County's grant cycle is open. Will ask for cemetery cleaning supplies. Americana Corner is due on Dec. 15th.
- Cemetery cleaning is complete for the season. 55 gallons of D-2 Biological Sultion was sprayed onto gravestones in the oldest part of the Second Reformed Cemetery over the summer and fall. Nearly all of the older gravestones from the second Reformed Church site all the back to the Persons and Robinson family graves have been treated.
- GCS will host a celebration of the school's centennial on the 100th day of this school year, Feb. 13th 2025. Alumni are invited to partake.
- Tom and Yvonne will meet Anna Duhon of the Hawthorne Valley Association on Dec. 10th to discuss possible educational programming at the Parsonage in the summer of 2025.
- Christopher Nolan visited the Parsonage in November to discuss the ongoing collaboration between the towns of Clermont, Germantown, and Livingston on a project highlighting Mohican history and artifacts.
- Tom, Rich and Alvin held court at the Hudson Area Library History Room on Saturday morning, Dec. 7th to give the Germantown Garden Club free reign at the Parsonage for their holiday market.
- Tom submitted a very brief history of river access in Germantown for potential inclusion in the LWRP Inventory and Analysis section. It contains easy-to-access citations for the Livingston and Hunter deeds, Sharp and Hagedorn's 1724 petition, Burnet's 1724 decree, the Wigram map, and the various Beers atlas maps.

- Recent donations: several family photographs of Clyde H. DeWitt, given by this grandchildren, Craig Rowland and Linda Elliot. They got in touch after seeing [this article](#) in the Columbia Paper about the Germantown National Bank failure. Brenda Shufelt shared digitized images from a recent donation to the Hudson Area Library of WWI-era Farmerettes who worked on farms in Germantown.
- The NAGPRA process is complete but for arranging and completing the actual repatriation with Stockbridge-Munsee representatives.
- The Sacramento German Genealogy Society recently donated 4 boxes of German genealogy books to Palatines to America and the Germantown Library to add to the Henry Z Jones Jr. Collection.
- Mendes Wood DM produced a number of postcards and totebags based on Walt Miller's drawings (described under events) for sale. All proceeds will go to Friends of Historic Germantown.
- Events:
 - Dec. 14th, 3PM, Walt Miller's Historical Imagination. Fifteen of Walt's drawings on display and the context behind them, leading into Winter Glow. Mendes Wood DM gallery, 10 Church Ave.
 - Jan. 6th, Program on Zoom and possibly hybrid at the Claverack Library to highlight projects funded by the Pomeroy Foundation in Columbia County. Tom, Gregg Berninger, Edgar Masters, Virginia Martin, possibly Tom Moreland, and more.
 - Jan. 24th, a public get together of the Columbia County Historians to mark the 250th anniversary of the first documented Albany County Committee of Correspondence Meeting. Details coming soon.
 - Winter Zoom history talks at the Germantown Library, TBD.
 - Talks for the Friends of Clermont and Hendrick Hudson DAR in the springtime. TBD.

MONTHLY REPORT

- 1-WORKING GETTING ALL TRUCKS READY FOR WINTER
- 2-BLOWING LEAVE OUT OF PIPES AND DITCHES
- 3- PUT GRILLS AWAY
- 4-RECIEVED 100 TON OF SALT
- 5-DID LEAVES AGAIN AROUND TOWNHALL AND PLAYGROUND
- 6-HAD 1 SNOW EVENT
- 7-HAVE BEEN DOING A LOT OF WORK ON BODY AND FRAME OF 10 WHEELER
- 8-CLEANED UP MESS LEFT AT DALES BRIDGE BY CONTRACTORS THAT BUILT STAIRS
- 9-STARTED TO WORK ON ROAD INVENTORY FOR STATE DOT
- 10-NEW 550 SHOULD BE DELIVERED THIS MONTH

ANTHONY CIDRAS
HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT

Old Business

- Kellner Activity Building. The majority of the work will be complete this Thursday. There may be some minor details, but it will be ready for the Winter Glow on Saturday. Supervisor Helsley said the toilets and sinks are in and the bathrooms are useable. Councilman Christian offered to help.
- SPEDES permit- No update.

- Salt Shed roof Solar array- No bidders. Councilman Christian, Christina and Matthew have been meeting and talking with NYSERDA and some other towns that have done similar things. Councilman Christian said there is no plan at this moment. Supervisor Helsley said another option is to run a new line or put a new meter on the salt shed. Councilman Christian said they ruled out the NYSERDA make ready plan, it wasn't practical.
- Bard Parcel. Still awaiting word on the deed restrictions. Corinne said the Title Commitment Report has been issued noticing the exception. Councilman Christian heard from Michelle Higgins that the lawyers signed off and we should hear soon.
- Vandalism at Palatine Park. Installation of cameras. Sample camera was received, but cannot be installed due to the ongoing renovation. There are not available ports. Archtop will be contacted to verify everything is working properly and to install a new switch. Supervisor Helsley reported no new vandalism.
- The Columbia County Hazard Mitigation policy. Any updates? Supervisor Helsley is waiting for them to finalize.

New Business

- Local Law E- Filming. Suggestions for changes. Corinne prepared a draft. Corinne received a few comments. Councilmember Suarez does not want the law to be too complicated and burdensome. Discussion whether the permit and fees go through the Town Clerk or CEO. Councilman Sullivan is concerned about safety issues. Corinne added the insurance requirement should go through the town attorney. Supervisor Helsley will talk to Brandon in regards to the permits. Corinne suggested Brandon look at the draft law and application. Discussion on how many days filming should be allowed, crew size with restrictions, jail time for violations. Town Board agreed to leave in jail time. Corinne will make the suggested changes then send to Supervisor Helsley and Supervisor Helsley can discuss with Brandon.
- Resolution for Dog Licensing Memo to be mailed with 2025 Tax Bills. Supervisor Helsley read the following Resolution:

TOWN BOARD
TOWN OF GERMANTOWN
COLUMBIA COUNTY, NEW YORK

RESOLUTION APPROVING THE INCLUSION OF A MEMORANDUM REGARDING
TOWN DOG LICENSING REQUIREMENTS WITH THE 2024 TAX BILLS AND / OR
PAYMENT RECEIPTS

12/10/2024

WHEREAS, the Town of Germantown has an established law requiring the owners of all dogs over the age of 4 months to be properly licensed; and

WHEREAS, it is recognized that there are likely many dogs that are not properly licensed residing in Germantown; and

WHEREAS, Town tax bills and / or payment receipts are mailed each year to all residences in the Town of Germantown; and

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WHEREAS, the inclusion of a memorandum reminding dog owners of the licensing requirements and procedures in the annual tax documents will result in significant savings in postage and labor;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Town Board of the Town of Germantown to allow the preparation of a Memorandum regarding dog licensing requirements in the Town of Germantown, and once approved by a majority of the Town Board, to be included with the mailings of Town tax bills and / or receipts for the 2025 tax year.

On a motion by Council Member Suarez, and seconded by Council Member Sullivan, and having been approved by a majority of the Board, this Resolution was declared duly adopted by the Town of Germantown Town Board

Joyce Vale, Germantown Town Clerk

- Creation of a Recreational Committee/Department? Amend or Repeal LL3 of 2005? Corinne reached out to Association of Towns and they differed to NYMIR. Corinne said it is unlikely to cover parks without an agreement. Corinne said it would almost be like the summer program that is covered. Councilman Sullivan is concerned if programs are being held off site. Supervisor Helsley will get the information from Fingar Insurance and then add this to the Re-Org meeting. Councilmember Suarez suggested repealing the local law from 2005. Corinne will draft up a new local law with regulations on the parks and include repeal section. The Town Board will hold a workshop on this matter next year. Councilman Christian mentioned another workshop is needed for the LWRP. Jan Brochert asked what the recreational committee would do? Supervisor Helsley said this would be discussed in the workshop.
- Set dates for Year End and Re-Organizational meetings. Year End meeting will be held on Friday, December 27th, 2024 at 1:00pm and the Re-Organizational meeting will be held on January 2nd, 2025 at 6:00pm.

Supervisor's Report

- Winter Glow, Saturday, December 14th. Details can be found on the website. Councilmember Suarez will update the website with all the events.
- Resolution for the Foil policy. Supervisor Helsley read the following Resolution:

TOWN BOARD

TOWN OF GERMANTOWN

COLUMBIA COUNTY, NEW YORK

RESOLUTION ADOPTING FOIL POLICY

Dated: December 10, 2024

WHEREAS, Article 6 of the Freedom of Information Law ("FOIL") was amended by Chapter 302 of the Laws of 2024 to require that agencies subject to FOIL develop a policy regarding providing a notification to public employees in the event that the agency is responding to a request for such employee & #39;s disciplinary records.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Town Board of the Town of Germantown that the following policy is adopted:

Pursuant to Public Officers Law § 87(6), in the event that a current or former Town of Germantown employee's disciplinary records are requested pursuant to the Freedom of Information Law ("FOIL"), the Records Access Officer shall also provide written notification, delivered in person, by mail to the last known address, or by email to such employee of said request when those disciplinary records are provided in response to a request.

Introduced by Councilman Sullivan

Seconded by Councilmember Suarez

This Resolution having been approved by a majority of the Board, the same was declared duly adopted.

Joyce Vale, Germantown Town Clerk

Comments from Councilmembers

No comments from Council.

Comments and Questions from the public

Jan Brochert mentioned the Climate Smart Committee will be handing out energy efficient informational bags at the Winter Glow.

Martin Overington gave the WAC update stating they had a good year. Martin thanked the town board for all their support and for writing the letter to Amtrak and then getting a response from them. Martin also said they have been looking into the history of access and access points to add to the Hudson River to add to the LWRP. Martin said last year they put up three trees at Cheviot. Martin said the Ice house is cleared and invited the public to take a look. Martin then said they talked about a sign for no parking, so that people don't park on the grass. Martin is happy about the new history sign at the Ice house. Martin lastly said they have been doing some fund raising for the waterchestnut machine and the pontoon boat. Supervisor Helsley thanked Martin for his hard work.

Tony Albino mentioned the fire commissioner vote tonight at the firehouse.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:04pm made by Councilman Sullivan, seconded by Councilmember Suarez with all in favor and none opposed.

Respectfully submitted,