

History Advisory Committee
February 22nd, 2025

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

- We discussed at length the draft roof replacement scope of work that Ethan drafted. We made substantial revisions during this meeting. Will send the finished draft to the Town Board with these minutes for consideration.
- Potential name for the Bard Parcel. The History Advisory Committee proposes to the Town Board that the Bard Parcel be officially named "Theodore Robinson Community Forest" when it opens to the public. This in honor of the man who lived and worked adjacent to the forest for almost his entire life, served in the 39th USCT during the Civil War, and led Memorial Day parades in Germantown in his later years.
- Resolution request from the Underground Railroad Consortium of New York State: The committee thought that the paragraph about outdoor signage was intrusive. Concerns about historical accuracy were also expressed. Tom will draft an additional "whereas" paragraph describing the Persons, Robinsons, and their neighbors on Maple Ave. Will highlight the signage paragraph for discussion and send the draft to the Town Board.
- Pomeroy Historic Marker Day: coming up on April 25th. Will take a look around, but most markers and monuments in Germantown are already repainted or cleaned. Might organize a gravestone cleaning session if the weather cooperates.
- Hometown Heroes banner program: the committee will brainstorm some veterans from the Civil War, and those who were killed in action during WWII.
- SHPO assigned a new person, Julie Maresco, for National Register of Historic Places determinations and associated work in our region.
- Berkshire Taconic Community Impact grant: Yvonne and Tom worked on this grant and submitted it a few weeks ago. Seeking approximately \$2,000 to fund a summer program at the Parsonage, and potentially the Bard Parcel, about native and invasive plants. The program would be led by Hawthorne Valley Farmscape Ecology Program if the grant is awarded.

- Pomeroy Historic Transportation Sign Grant: Opens in mid-March. Will apply for a sign marking the railroad station at the end of Main Street.
- We talked about a previously unknown-to-us passage in the “Historical Memoirs of William Smith Jr.” describing a visit by the Marquis de Lafayette to the Livingston Manor House in February 1778. Tom will reach out to the Pomeroy Lafayette program about potential signage at the site of the Manor House, the Roe Jan Boat Club.
- The American Battlefield Trust very recently awarded \$2,000 to Germantown Central School for a field trip to Fort Stanwix, Oriskany Battlefield, and Herkimer Home SHS.
- We expect a decision on the Americana Corner grant application very soon.
- Recent donations: Dale Hinkein donated several GCS items that Karen saved from the dumpster over the years, including a handwritten list of graduating classes from 1924 into the 1960s.
- Events:
 - Walt Miller’s Drawings, Feb. 22nd 4PM to 6 PM at MendesWoodDM
 - History Talks at Germantown Library, dates coming soon
 - Pomeroy Historic Marker Day April 25th
 - Rev. War Event at Hendrick Hudson DAR, May 10th
 - APHNYS Region 4 meeting, June 7th