

Minutes of March 8, 2022, Germantown Town Board meeting, held in the Germantown Town Hall, 50 Palatine Park Road, Germantown, NY, and via Zoom, commencing at 6:45pm.

Present: Supervisor Helsley
Councilman Sullivan
Councilman Kukon
Councilman Christian

Town Attorney, Corinne Smith

Present via Zoom: Councilmember Suarez

Recorded by: Town Clerk, Joyce Vale

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

Motion to open the town board meeting made by Councilman Kukon, seconded by Councilman Sullivan, with all in favor and none opposed.

Motion to approve the February 8, 2022 public hearing minutes and the February 8, 2022 board meeting minutes made by Councilman Sullivan, seconded by Councilman Kukon, with all in favor and none opposed.

Motion to pay the Audited bills for March 2022 made by Councilman Kukon, seconded by Councilman Sullivan, with all in favor and none opposed.

Written Communications to the Town Clerk

None

Old Business

- Stretch Code- Local Law has been modified and has not been published for the required 10 days prior to the public hearing. The Town Board cannot take action at this time.

- Green Revolving Fund- We need to establish policies and procedures on use of the funds. Corinne said that it is not a true reserve account it will be part of the budget and we could establish procedures by resolution it is up to the Town Board. Councilman Christian suggested Climate Smart come up with some suggestions how to handle the money. Councilmember Suarez agrees with Councilman Christian. Matthew Mercier is working with Mike Brown from the CSC and will communicate to the Town Board.

- Discussion on Implementation of a sponsored/memorial trees program in Germantown parks. Supervisor Helsley said they will discuss after the Parks Commission meeting.

New Business

- Motion to approve the Agreement for the Expenditure of Highway Monies as submitted by the Highway Superintendent.

Councilman Kukon brought up paving/resurfacing Lasher Avenue before paving either South or Block Factory roads. Councilman Sullivan said there has to be some kind of cycle for road maintenance. Supervisor Helsley will have a discussion with Anthony. Councilman Christian asked if there were any urgency to approve tonight? Corinne said to get the questions answered first before the highway money is expended.

- Motion to approve the station an Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Watercraft Steward at Germantown boat launch during the 2022 boating season by Cornell Cooperative Extension of Saratoga County. Councilman Christian commented that this is very helpful. Councilman Kukon agrees.

Motion to approve the station an Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Watercraft Steward at the Germantown boat launch during the 2022 boating season by Cornell Cooperative Extension made by Councilman Sullivan, seconded by Councilmember Suarez, with all in favor and none opposed.

- Re-appoint Lester Olsson to the Board of Assessment Review.

Motion to re-appoint Lester Olsson to the Board of Assessment Review for a five-year term concluding September 30, 2026, made by Councilman Sullivan, seconded by Councilman Kukon, with all in favor and none opposed.

- Town Credit Card- No authorized users on the account. Motion to add Supervisor, Deputy Supervisor and Town Clerk as authorized users.

Motion to add Supervisor, Deputy Supervisor and Town Clerk as authorized users of the Town credit card made by Councilman Kukon, seconded by Councilmember Suarez, with all in favor and none opposed.

- Solarize Germantown. Councilman Christian read the following resolution:

TOWN BOARD
TOWN OF GERMANTOWN
COLUMBIA COUNTY, NEW YORK

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE
GERMANTOWN SOLARIZE CAMPAIGN**

WHEREAS, the Germantown Solarize Campaign is a short term, local effort administered by the Town of Germantown in conjunction with the Town’s Climate Smart Communities Task Force that brings together groups of potential community solar customers through widespread outreach and education, and

WHEREAS, this model helps customers choose a community solar company that is offering competitive, transparent pricing, and

WHEREAS, community solar typically offers up to 10% savings on residents electricity bills, and

WHEREAS, the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) provides technical assistance and other tools and resources to communities in support of Community Solar Campaigns.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Germantown supports, endorses, and is committed to participate in the Germantown Solarize campaign.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town of Germantown stands ready to assist with community outreach and education in support of the Germantown Solarize campaign.

Motion to approve the Germantown Solarize campaign made by Councilmember Suarez, seconded by Councilman Christian, with all in favor and none opposed.

- Motion to approve the Town Clerk to attend the annual conference for the NYS Town Clerk Association.

Motion to approve the Town Clerk to attend the annual conference for the NYS Town Clerk Association made by Councilman Sullivan, seconded by Councilman Kukon, with all in favor and none opposed.

- Amendment of the Zoning map to comply with Local Law No. 1 of 2013.

Corinne Smith read the following Resolution:

**TOWN BOARD
TOWN OF GERMANTOWN
COLUMBIA COUNTY, NEW YORK
March 8, 2022**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Local Law No.2 of 2022, providing for a local law revising the Zoning Map to extend the Hamlet Mixed-Use zoning district is hereby introduced at this meeting; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED; by the Town Board of the Town of Germantown as follows:

1. The Town Board of the Town of Germantown shall hold a public hearing on the 10th day of May, 2022 at 6:30pm at the Germantown Town Hall and via Zoom technology to hear all interested parties on said proposed local law; and
2. The Town Clerk of the Town of Germantown is hereby authorized and directed to publish notice of said public hearing in the official newspaper of the Town, on the Town’s website, and on the Town sign board at least ten (10) days prior to the date of the public hearing; and
3. The Town Board declares itself lead agency for purposes of State Environmental Quality Review (“SEQR”) for the proposed action and hereby finds that the proposed project is a Type I action and authorizes the Town Supervisor to sign Part I of the Full EAF; and

4. The Town Clerk of the Town of Germantown with assistance from the attorney for the Town is hereby authorized and directed to refer the local law to the Columbia County Planning Board pursuant to General Municipal Law § 239-m; and

5. The Town Clerk of the Town of Germantown is hereby authorized and directed to give notice of said public hearing to all adjacent municipalities at least ten (10) days prior to the date of the public hearing; and

6. The Town Clerk of the Town of Germantown with assistance from the attorney for the Town is hereby authorized and directed to refer the local law to the Town Planning Board for a report and recommendation thereon pursuant to Town of Germantown Zoning and Subdivision Law Article XVI, section B(2).

Introduced by: Councilman Sullivan

Seconded by: Councilmember Suarez

The proposed Resolution having been approved by a majority of the Board, the same was declared duly adopted by the Germantown Town Board.

- Formation of a committee to review the Town Zoning Law. Councilmember Suarez will put notice on the website. Supervisor Helsley said they have received applicants and they will interview candidates. Councilman Sullivan will draft up and post notice on the website. Councilmember Suarez suggested to apply by April 1st. Supervisor Helsley said at the April meeting they will set a number for the committee then conduct interviews. The Town Board decided to set the deadline for the April 12th Town Board meeting and then will then decide how many people will be on the committee.

Supervisor's Report

- Columbia County Summer Youth Program- appeal to the board for candidates they would like to recommend. Councilman Sullivan suggested sending this along to the school.
- Greenway Bike tour- More details from Councilman Christian. Councilman Christian said the 2023 bike tour sponsored by NY parks & trails.
- Rabies Clinic- May 7th, 2022 at the Kellner Activity Building.
10AM-11AM for Cats/Ferrets
11AM-12PM for Dogs
- Reminder that it is a NYS Law and Local Law #3 of 2011 to have your Dogs licensed- See the Town Clerk for details.

Comments from Councilmembers

Councilmember Suarez said she forwarded the Town Board the contract and invoice from Legion Fireworks to review then after review to send back with a deposit. Supervisor Helsley will sign after

Corinne reviews it. Councilmember Suarez also sent the contract to Greg Fingar. Thank you to Councilmember Suarez and Garrett Montgomery.

Councilmember Suarez asked if the public can attend meetings in the Town Hall again and if they want to put it on the agenda for next month? Councilman Kukon agrees. Councilman Christian and Supervisor Helsley are in favor of zoom and hybrid meetings. The Town Board agreed to having the public attend the meetings in person. There was discussion on all boards and committee meetings. Corinne said after the discussion as long as you give the public notice and put it on the calendar. Corinne will do all the public notices. The Town Board agreed on all boards and committees going hybrid with the option of zoom.

Councilman Sullivan said that Tom Shannon will talk about the Preserve NY Grant. Councilman Sullivan also said the library would like to use the field by the Activity Building for an Easter Egg Hunt on April 16th. Councilman Sullivan also added after the incident at the Dollar General the Fire Department and the Town Board had talked about getting an Incident Report Board. Councilman Sullivan said there had been discussion on the Town splitting the cost with them and the Fire Commissioners had asked if the Town was still willing to split the cost with them. The cost is approximately \$3,700. Tony Albino said how important this is to the Fire Department. Tony will discuss the finance part at the next fire commissioners meeting.

Tom Shannon said the grant he is applying for is funded through the preservation league of NYS. The grant funds building condition reports and a professional will do a condition report on the Parsonage and make a priority list. And this open door for grants to do the roof, re-point the chimney and electric work. They got one quote of \$6,400 and Tom would like Town to put \$500 from the History Department discretionary budget towards it if they get the grant. Tom also said that the Friends of Historic Germantown 501c3 group that can help out with the fund raising.

Motion to approve the Preserve NY Grant made by Councilmember Suarez, seconded by Councilman Kukon, with all in favor and none opposed.

Comments and Questions from the Public

Matthew Mercier was going to talk about zoning and he is glad the Board is going to work on forming a zoning committee. Matthew was disappointed to hear about the decision from the ZBA about Laura Sink's business Gatherwild but he understands the legal issues.

Supervisor Helsley reminded everyone of the Town Board meeting is April 12, 2022 immediately following the public hearing.

Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Councilman Kukon, seconded by Councilman Sullivan, with all in favor and none opposed.

Meeting closed at 7:48pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Vale