

Minutes of April 11, 2023 Germantown Town Board meeting, held in the Germantown Town Hall, 50 Palatine Park Road, Germantown, New York and via Zoom, commencing at 7:16pm.

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.

Motion to approve the amended March 14th board meeting minutes made by Councilman Kukon, seconded by Councilman Sullivan, with all in favor and none opposed.

Review of the financial reports- comments, questions?

Motion to pay the audited bills for April made by Councilmember Suarez, seconded by Councilman Kukon, with all in favor and none opposed.

Written Communications to the Town Clerk

Town Clerk received monthly reports from Highway and History departments.

Old Business

- LLA-2023 Tax Exemptions for first responders. Motion to approve Local Law A Tax Exemptions for first responders made by Councilmember Suarez, seconded by Councilman Kukon, with all in favor and none opposed.

Roll call by Town Clerk:

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

- Update to electronic records. Councilman Christian did some investigation. He said the next step is to try a test run in the next 2-3 months get copies from Jami. Test run posting then decide on the next steps. Supervisor Helsley said he envisioned a link on the Town website to the file storage location for ZBA and Planning files. Councilmember Suarez said it will make it easier to maintain when the town board changes throughout the years.
- Kellner Activity building. Supervisor Helsley said it is an ongoing process. He hasn't heard from Gregg yet. The goal is to start after Christmas.
- STR Law- additional workshop needed? STR Law put on the May agenda.

New Business

- Provisional approval was given by the Supervisor to Cornell University Cooperative Extension of Saratoga County to house the Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Watercraft Steward at the Germantown boat launch during the 2023-2-27 boating seasons, as well as approval for Capital Region PRISM (Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management) to establish a temporary monitoring trap for the same time period. Response was requested prior to April 10, 2023. Supervisor Helsley gave the approval. Councilman Christian is familiar with the watercraft steward but he is not familiar with the trap. Supervisor Helsley said the PRISM is new

Supervisor Helsley read the memorandum. Town Board agreed.

- Resolution adopting the Green Revolving Fund policy and procedures. Christina Bohnsack is requesting a change of the language. Motion to table Resolution adopting the Green Revolving Fund policy and procedure made by Councilman Sullivan, seconded by Councilman Kukon, with all in favor and none opposed.
- Motion to adopt Eli Fieser as Acting Code Enforcement Officer for the purpose of conducting the final inspection and closure of Building Permit #47-21, renewed by permit #33-21 issued to Brandon Mullins. Councilman Christian asked if this is a conflict? Corinne answered “no” using another town’s CEO and not an engineer is acceptable. Supervisor Helsley will make sure this is documented in Brandon’s file. Motion to adopt Eli Fieser as Acting Code Enforcement Officer for the purpose of conducting the final inspection and closure to building permit #47-21 and renewed permit #33-21 issued to Brandon Mullins made by Councilmember Suarez, seconded by Councilman Kukon, with all in favor and none opposed.
- Independence Day celebration. Setting vendor fees. Supervisor Helsley asked if the fees should be kept the same? Councilman Kukon said you would have to sell a lot for one item. Councilmember Suarez would like to make fee lower and hopefully get more vendors. Councilmember Suarez called 4 other companies. Moving forward charging them a vendor fee. Motion to lower profit fee from \$200.00 to \$150.00 for profit and \$75.00 to \$50.00 for non-profit made by Supervisor Helsley, seconded by Councilmember Suarez, with all in favor and none opposed. Town Board discussed entry fee. Town Board decided on \$5.00 per person, \$5.00 to park, \$15.00 per car-gate keepers will use their discretion on if one person is in the vehicle what to charge, and 5 years and under are free. Martin Overington suggested a sign with this information when you drive in. Councilmember Suarez said there is limited parking. Councilman Kukon suggested closing the parking lot at 8:00pm. The event runs from 4:00-11pm, Fireworks begin at 9:30pm.
- An IFB for replacement of the Town Hall roof will be developed- This is a budgeted expense. Supervisor Helsley read the following Resolution:

TOWN BOARD
TOWN OF GERMANTOWN
COLUMBIA COUNTY, NEW YORK

RESOLUTION
Dated: April 11, 2023

WHEREAS, the Town of Germantown’s Town Hall located at 50 Palatine Park Road, Germantown, New York is in need of a new roof; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to 6 NYCRR Part 617.5(c)(2) actions for “replacement, rehabilitation or reconstruction of a structure or facility, in kind, on the same site, including upgrading buildings to meet building, energy, or fire codes unless such action meets or exceeds any of the thresholds in section 617.4 of the Part” have been determined not to have a significant impact on the environment and are precluded from environmental review under Article 8 of the Environmental Conservation Law; and

WHEREAS, the purposed project does not meet or exceed any of the thresholds in Section 617.4.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Town Board of the Town of Germantown as follows:

1. The Town Board declares itself lead agency for purposes of State Environmental Quality Review (“SEQR”) for the proposed project and hereby finds that the proposed project is a Type II action and is not subject to any further review under SEQR; and

2. The Town Supervisor, in consultation with the attorney for the Town, is authorized to issue the Invitation for Bids requesting bids for the re-roofing of the Town Hall according to the specifications contained therein and to receive sealed bids.

On a motion by Councilman Sullivan, and seconded by Councilman Kukon and having been approved by a majority of the Board, this Resolution was declared duly adopted by the Town of Germantown Town Board.

- Due to recent activity witnessed by the Town Historian- Development of a LL to prohibit metal detection in Germantown Cemeteries? Supervisor Helsley received an email from Tom Shannon in regards to someone digging and metal detecting in the Cheviot cemetery. Supervisor Helsley said this is very disrespectful and then asked the board do we want to develop a Local Law? Tony Albino said any town owned property should be protected. Corinne suggested adopting a Local Law prohibiting digging and metal detecting in cemeteries. Corinne found one other town prohibiting metal detecting in cemeteries. Tom said the three most important are the Parsonage cemetery, Reformed church and Cheviot cemeteries but also included the river landings at Cheviot and the Anchorage also the old dump and Palatine Park. The town board agreed to all town owned properties. Corinne said there could be a permit fee? Councilman Kukon said “no” to a permit fee but gave an example is someone lost something on the ballfield it could be permitted. Corinne will draft for next meeting. Tom Shannon said that Yvonne Crawford would like to join the History department. Motion to approve Yvonne Crawford joining the History department made by Supervisor Helsley, seconded by Councilman Sullivan, with all in favor and none opposed. Tom said April 28, 2023 is clean marker day and clean the World War I monument. Tom added that there is a new smart thermostat in the Parsonage.

Supervisor’s Report

- New computers have been deployed to the Clerk, CEO, Planning/Zoning, Tax collector, and Highway. All are being administered by CC MIS, which allows for remote support. Any support needed can be done by sending an email to the CC MIS Help Desk @ helpdesk@columbiacountyny.com
- The first “Music by the Lake” event will feature Nashville recording artist Jordan Stoner on Saturday, May 13th beginning at 6pm. Thank you to the hard work by Clerk Vale, Jim Rushmore, Janice Mullins, all of the donors and everyone else involved in making this happen. The event is free to the public and food will be available for purchase from the Germantown Sportsman’s. List of bands and dates will be sent to Councilman Sullivan and Councilmember Suarez to post on the website.
- Earth Day events
 1. Thursday, April 20th, GCS will be having groups of 1st, 2nd and 3rd graders at the park to identify wild flowers as well as pull garlic mustard.
 2. CSC sponsored events. Councilmember Suarez commented all the events would be held in the park.

Martin Overington said River Sweep is Saturday, May 6th and rain date is May 7th. Martin thanked the town for their support and a thank you to Anthony.

Comments from Councilmembers

Councilman Sullivan would like to set Camp dates and prices. He said camp will start Monday, July 10 thru Friday, August 18 and it will be 9am to 3pm a 6-week program. Residents will be \$225.00 per child and Non-residents \$275.00 per child. Councilman Sullivan if anyone has a financial hardship to reach out to them. Supervisor Helsley said DSS provides sponsorship with proof of hardship.

Councilman Sullivan would also like to discuss lighting at the Anchorage and he likes Martin’s idea of solar and wind powered lighting. Martin said 100 watts or less is needed. Councilman Sullivan said this would count for CSC points. Councilman Christian asked could they put low power on that pole? Supervisor Helsley will work with Anthony. Councilman Sullivan would like

music at the Anchorage. Councilman Christian work on both power at the pole and solar. Supervisor Helsley will donate his time and Councilman Sullivan will help.

Martin is asking for the \$4,900 that is in the tree fund. Will need approval from the Town Board. Councilman Sullivan is asking for an invoice. Martin said WAC and Parks commission are donating as well. Supervisor Helsley mentioned the procurement policy. Martin said they will plant half of the trees in the spring and the other half in the fall. Supervisor Helslely will earmark trees. \$1,000- 2,000 or more will need 3 verbal quotes and \$2,000 -5,000 will need 3 written quotes. Corinne said to document your effort to obtain quotes. Martin asked Anthony to help clear the Ice House. Councilman Sullivan said the backhoe may trigger a response. Councilman Christian said to notify Amtrak and they can work with you. Martin said Amtrak closed down Cheviot Park 24-48 hours. Councilman Christian said it looks like some type of construction trucks. Martin reminded everyone that River Sweep is May 6th.

Tony Albino said some GCS students started sculpture projects for the town park before the pandemic and is wondering if the town board can resurrect this? 3-5 sculptures. Town Board agreed to this.

WAC received a grant from CLC

No executive session.

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

Meeting closed at 8:35pm.

Respectfully submitted,