

Minutes of August 8, 2023, Germantown Town Board meeting, held in the Germantown Town Hall, 50 Palatine Park Road, Germantown, NY and via Zoom, commencing at 7:03pm.

Present: Supervisor Helsley
Councilman Kukon
Councilman Christian

Present via Zoom: Councilmember Suarez
Town Attorney, Corinne Smith

Absent: Councilman Sullivan

Recorded by: Town Clerk, Joyce Vale

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

Motion to approve the July 11, 2023 Town Board meeting minutes made by Councilman Kukon, seconded by Supervisor Helsley, with all in favor and none opposed.

Motion to approve the July 25, 2023 Public Hearing minutes with the change to the uncompleted sentence, **Supervisor Helsley added this is not a money-making venture for the town** made by Supervisor Helsley seconded by Councilman Christian.

Town Clerk will also attach the letters from the residents to the minutes.

Review of Financial Reports- Comments, Questions. Supervisor Helsley said Brian, the accountant has to manually import everything because the former accountants used quick books and he uses peach tree software and it will not import so there are no July reports yet.

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

Written Communications to the Town Clerk

Town Clerk received the May, June & July Highway reports and the History department report.

Tom Shannon is waiting for a quote from MIS department so he can purchase a desktop and laptop computers using the \$3,000 grant.

Motion to approve the purchase of a desktop and laptop computers using the grant funds not to exceed \$3,000 made by Supervisor Helsley, seconded by Councilman Christian, with all in favor and none opposed.

Supervisor Helsley asked Tom to get him the quote as soon as possible.

MAY MONTHLY REPORT

- 1- TURNED WATER ON IN BEACHHOUSE BATHROOMS
- 2- PATCHED ROADS
- 3- BEGAN MOWING SHOULDERS
- 4- GOT GROUNDS READY FOR MEMORIAL DAY
- 5- REPLACED SOME ROAD SIGNS
- 6- CUT TREES IN PARK AND DID PASS THROUGH TOWN ROADS WITH CHIPPER
- 7- INSPECTED PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT
- 8- CLEANED FLOWER BEDS
- 9- PREPING FOR BLACKTOPPING

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT
ANTHONY CIDRAS

JUNE MONTHLY REPORT

- 1- HAD SAFETY TRAINING
- 2- BLACKTOPPED EAST CAMP, CHEVIOT EXTENSION, BLOCK FACTORY
- 3- HAULDED IN STONE FOR OIL AND STONE AND SCREENFILL FOR SHOULDERS

- 4- WORKED ON BALLFIELDS
- 5- MOWING SHOULDERS
- 6- PAINTED ENDS OF PAVILION
- 7- INSTALLED CLIPPER SHIP ON PAVILION
- 8- GOT GROUNDS READY FOR 4TH OF JULY
- 9- HAVE BEEN MOWING AND WEEDEATING PARK AND OUT LINING AREAS

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT
ANTHONY CIDRAS

JULY MONTHLY REPORT

- 1- DUG UP AND HELPED REPAIR AIRLINE LEAK AT SEWER PLANT
- 2- CLEANED UP AFTER 4TH OF JULY
- 3- DID NITRANE AND COLIFORM WATER TESTS FOR SUMMER CAMP FOR JUNE AND JULY
- 4- DEPT OF HEALTH DID THEIR INSPECTION
- 5- DID BRAKES ON 2020 PICKUP TRUCK
- 6- SENT 10 WHEELER TO BEN FUNKS BECAUSE OF AIR LEAK AND PULLING TO LEFT
- 7- MOWING PARK AND OUT LINING AREAS
- 8- SERVICED BACKHOE
- 9- MOWING SHOULDERS

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT
ANTHONY CIDRAS

AUGUST REPORT

- 1- 20 TONS OF PATCHING
- 2- MOWING PARK AND OUT LINING AREAS
- 3- CLEANING BUILDINGS
- 4- REPAIRED HIGH PRESSURE OIL LINES IN AMBULANCE
- 5- REPAIRED A.C. IN 550
- 6- CHIP SEALED PALATINE PARK RD, ROUNDTOP, BEST LANE, MEACHER RD
- 7- HAVING PROBLEMS WITH VANDALISM IN THE PARK EXAMPLES DOING DOUGHNUTS ON THE BALLFIELD LAWN, GRAFITTI, DAMAGE IN THE BATHROOMS
- 8- CUT SOME TREES DOWN AND BRUSH ALONG ROADS
- 9- HAD SOME STORM CLEANUPS
- 10- PUT SHOULDERS DOWN ON BLOCK FACTORY, CHEVIOT EXT, AND EAST CAMP

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT
ANTHONY CIDRAS

History Advisory Committee
July 29, 2023

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

- The William G. Pomeroy Foundation grant check of \$3,000 to purchase new computers at the History Department arrived. Will submit a purchase order to the Town Board before their next meeting.
- Building condition report on the Parsonage is tentatively scheduled with Crawford and Stearns for September. It will be paid for through donations to FOHG.
- Hudson River Bank and Trust grant will be submitted soon through FOHG. Asking for \$5,000 for chimney and roof work on the Parsonage.
- Hover Foundation grant was submitted through FOHG. Asking for D2 biological solution, two historic markers (ice house and 1923 fire), and \$2,000 to be put toward chimney repair.
- Bank of Greene County grant was received at their recent award ceremony. It is \$1,000 for publishing history related pamphlets. The consensus of the committee was to

publish one of Walter Miller's unpublished manuscripts or condense all of the church histories into one pamphlet.

- Oral histories: Wendell Choinsky, Leland, Raymond, Elizabeth, and Timothy Crawford were recently interviewed. We went over our list of people to interview in the coming weeks.
- The annual invoice for New York Heritage arrived. It is \$505. The Germantown Library has \$395 leftover from the 2022 Hover Foundation grant. Will submit the remaining \$110 to the Town Board to be paid out of the History Department's budget allocation.
- The internet at the Parsonage was out briefly last week due to a wayward weed whacker. The wire is run through a conduit now.
- Recent donations: the gravestone of David L. Sloat, found on a property on Lasher Avenue, donated by Joshua Tuscan (didn't seem to be an actual burial site; genealogical leads haven't panned out yet); Crawford family movies from the 1950's and 60's given by Ray Crawford; Conrad Weiser Homestead books and meeting minutes given by Cindy Mendelsohn; three archive boxes given by Mary Howell; collector Jon Meredith let Rich scan a book of quit rents from the 1750's for properties in East Camp.
- Gravestone cleanings: the Second Lutheran Cemetery is more than two-thirds complete. Cleaning at the Second Reformed Cemetery scheduled to start July 30th, 3PM to 8PM. The Kukon Brothers supplied water for recent cleanings at both cemeteries. We have a little bit over 35 gallons of D2 biological solution on hand as of today, July 29th, all courtesy of the William G. Pomeroy Foundation.
- Memorandum of Understanding with Bard College: the Town Board and Attorney reviewed it at the July 11th Town Board meeting and asked that one clause indemnifying the Town of Germantown from liability related to the archaeological work be added. This proposed clause was sent to Bard administration shortly after the July Town Board meeting. As of today, no word back has been received.
- Drone footage: Tony spoke about our plans to do more drone footage through FOHG, this time focused on the Germantown waterfront.
- Events:
 - September 9th: Q and A at Quittner, 4PM to 7PM
 - September: History Dept./Germantown Library themed sandwich at Otto's
 - September 16th: Hudson River Valley Ramble
 - October 21st: Oktoberfest in Palatine Park all day. Campfire, games, food and Beverage at the Parsonage.
 - October/November: lecture about the stained glass windows at the Reformed Church.

Old Business

- Kellner Activity Building- Supervisor Helsley will break it down into smaller projects and work with Corinne and our procurement policy to get the most bang for our buck. Supervisor Helsley will have to put in the budget for expenditure of the ARPA funds for next year. Councilman Christian said the 3 most important things to have is the back-up generator that the Red Cross talked about and ADA compliant bathrooms and showers. Councilmember Suarez would like to see the building more ADA accessible and the bathrooms updated. Supervisor Helsley wants to break-down to smaller projects and the demo can be done in house. Councilman Christian said we don't need to make the current bathrooms ADA compliant as long as there is one ADA compliant unisex bathroom. Councilmember Suarez commented the current bathrooms are unusable. Councilmember Suarez suggested a workshop to discuss more in depth. Councilman Christian suggested to have the workshop in the Kellner building.
- Local Law C- STR Law- Do we need another workshop? Councilman Christian would like to see all the comments and make a list of all the thoughts. Corinne asked about adding them to the google drive so she could look over all the communications and respond to some of the comments if necessary. Councilmember Suarez will add them to the google drive and Supervisor Helsley will scan the hard copies and add them to the google drive. Councilmember Suarez suggested that the town board review all the comments and decide if they are going to make some changes before holding another public hearing. Corinne said if there are changes to let her know and there will be a need for another public hearing to hear comments on the updated document.

New Business

- Story Stroll. Gabrielle Balkman said the library has had a few story strolls along Palatine Park and Owen Stier is making permanent story stroll in the park. Gabe said they would like to do one more addition story stroll on yard signs leading from the gazebo to the Activity Building. Gabe was wondering if it is a town wide sponsored event if the signs could be printed at cost. Gabe's question was could they have a story stroll along that path and would the town be the sponsor and the library would pay all the costs? Supervisor Helsley and Councilmember Suarez are in support of this. Supervisor Helsley asked Gabe to get to him what they want and he will reach out to County Central Service.
- Reports of vehicles on the walking trail- suggestions? Supervisor Helsley said there is increased amount of vandalism in the park. Supervisor Helsley also said there was water left running in the bathrooms and he informed the will be locked at the end of the day. Supervisor Helsley said someone doing doughnuts tore up the baseball field and he has received reports of vehicles on the walking trail. Supervisor Helsley said the Sheriff's department is short staffed and they can't patrol that often. Supervisor Helsley said they could put bollards at the end of the trails. Councilmember Suarez liked that idea. Supervisor Helsley will talk with Anthony and get some ideas and pricing. Supervisor Helsley said they could put up cameras. Tony Albino is in favor of putting up cameras and said they are a good deterrent and they are not that expensive. Town Board approves the cameras.
- Motion terminating the contract for planning services with Alta and authorizing a new contract with EDR to be drafted and approved by legal counsel.

Motion made terminating the contract for planning services with Alta made by Councilmember Suarez, seconded by Councilman Kukon, with all in favor and none opposed.

- Community Forest Conservation Grant Program. Councilman Christian said DEC announced a new round of grants titled Community Forest Conservation Grant up to \$300,000 to buy forest within a town and conserve it and maintain as a forest. Councilman Christian said the Bard property north of the Parsonage is in that price neighborhood. Councilman Christian also said the deadline is October 11th and need to apply soon. Tom Shannon said a detailed grant with a max up to \$300,000 and requires a 10% town match, either financial or trail signage.

Motion to apply for the Community Forest Conservation Grant made by Councilmember Suarez, seconded by Supervisor Helsley, with all in favor and none opposed.

- Authorize an energy audit be conducted at the WWTP. Supervisor Helsley said Christina met with the Energy Auditor at the WWTP to find ways to save money and reduce costs. Councilman Christian said NYSEERDA or Green Revolving Fund could be used. Supervisor Helsley will get 2 years of electric bills and give the data to Christina. Councilman Christian suggested adding it this to the agenda for next month, Supervisor Helsley will put this on the agenda they will need this for budgeting process for 2024.
- Contractors at Cheviot. Supervisor Helsley read an email regarding three occurrences of tractor trailers at Cheviot Park. Corinne told Supervisor Helsley the town can restrict town road usage but the town cannot restrict delivery and pickup of materials. Corinne said the town adopted a local law in 2018 prohibiting large commercial vehicles from parking in any of the municipal parking lots including Cheviot. Supervisor Helsley would like to be notified when they are down there. Councilman Christian said they could do their work and leave the park accessible for people to come in and out with the understanding that it is a park. Councilmember Suarez commented and that they understand the local law as well. Councilman Christian asked would they be able to turn this letter into a complaint? Corinne recommendation is no court action and to have open communication with Amtrak and more communication with the Highway Superintendent making sure they are not damaging town roads or town property. Corinne said if it does continue to be a problem NYS vehicle and traffic law does give the town board the authority to adopt local laws for the use of town road but does not give them the authority to prevent delivery or pick up. Corinne recommended writing a letter. Councilman Kukon added if they are working on the track there it won't all the time. Councilmember Suarez asked Councilman Christian to draft a letter. Supervisor

Helsley added this would be a good approach asking them to cooperate.
Councilmember Suarez thanked the WWTP for bringing this to the board's attention.

Supervisor' Report

- Budget process beginning- Department heads will be receiving documents for their input.
- UPSEU negotiations to begin- Dates TBD
- The upcoming music event for 8/12/23 had to be switched to a DJ/Karaoke event due to a member of the scheduled band having a heart attack- He is recovering, we wish him a speedy recovery.

Comments from Councilmembers

No comments.

Comments and Questions from the public

No comments.

Motion to enter into executive session at 7:44pm to discuss Planning Board appointments made by Councilman Kukon, seconded by Councilman Christian, with all in favor and none opposed.

Motion to exit executive session at 7:47pm made by Councilmember Suarez, seconded by Councilman Kukon, with all in favor and none opposed.

Motion to appoint Simon Burstall to the open Planning Board seat term expires December 31, 2024 effective immediately made by Councilman Christian, seconded by Councilman Kukon, with all in favor and none opposed.

Supervisor Helsley asked Councilmember Suarez to notify Rebecca to her position as an alternate and to get sworn in. Supervisor Helsley also asked Councilmember Suarez to advertise for more alternates.

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

Meeting closed at 7:50pm.

Respectfully submitted,