

Minutes of November 6, 2025, Germantown Town Board meeting, held in the Germantown Town Hall, 50 Palatine Park Road, Germantown, New York and via Zoom, commencing at 7:06pm.

Present: Supervisor Helsley
Councilman Sullivan
Councilmember Suarez
Councilman Christian

Town Attorney, Corinne Smith

Absent: Councilman Kukon

Recorded by: Town Clerk, Joyce Vale

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

Motion to approve the October 1, 2025 workshop minutes, October 9, 2025 Public Hearing minutes and the October 9, 2025 Town Board meeting minutes made by Councilmember Suarez, seconded by Councilman Christian, with all in favor and none opposed.

Review of Financial Reports- Comments, Questions. Supervisor Helsley just received the financial reports today.

Motion to pay the audited bills for November 2025 made by Councilman Sullivan, seconded by Councilmember Suarez, with all in favor and none opposed.

Written Communications to the Town Clerk

Town Clerk received History monthly reports for August, September & October. Town Clerk also received a Thank you note from the family of Dale Hinkein.

History Advisory Committee
September 6th, 2025 (ppd from Aug.30th)

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

- Ideas for America 250: we discussed potential programming to be inserted into the 2026 Memorial Day parade and Independence Day fireworks event. Discussed putting

together a Rev. War veteran profile book similar to what Canaan and Hillsdale have recently produced. Emphasis on how difficult 1777 was for everyone in the Hudson Valley.

-Haunted Hayrides: we settled on depicting a lost Palatine cemetery with replica headstones with inscriptions of people we know are buried in the actual lost cemeteries.

- Potential Pomeroy Foundation grants: for the Historic Transportation sign, we will try for one at Cheviot regarding the ferry that ran to West Camp as early as 1711. For the Patriot Graves sign program, we will apply for Cheviot Cemetery and the Second Reformed Cemetery. Applications are now or soon will be accepted for both programs.

- FOHG National Register update: Tony secured funding for the project. FOHG will contract with Walter Wheeler to complete an update to the 1767 Parsonage National Register listing this autumn.

- Cemetery cleaning: We have 8 five-gallon buckets of Endurance Cleaner on hand. Tom and Rich recently cleaned all of the older stones at Valley View Cemetery. Tom recently completed cleaning all the the newest stones on the older half of the Second Reformed Cemetery (a two-year project). Hoping to start at Viewmonte Cemetery later this fall.

- Events:

“Ethnic Diversity in 18th Century New York,” organized by the African American Archive of Columbia County. Kinderhook Public Library. Sept. 21st, 1:30 PM. Tom is one of several panelists and will talk about the Palatines.

Hudson River Valley Ramble, Kayak Tour of the Germantown Waterfront, Sept 27th, 1PM. Start at Cheviot.

Path Through History Weekend, Oct. 11th, 5PM to 9PM, Campfire evening at the Parsonage.

Columbia County Historians quarterly meeting, Nov. 9th, 2PM in the Clermont Academy building. Tom will give a walking tour of the cemetery.

Event at Quittner with Emily Majer and others, first weekend in December.

Old Business

- Chris Brown was at the meeting to answer any land bank questions. Resolution Supporting the Transfer of two Parcels of land in the Town of Germantown to Columbia County Land Bank.

Chris Brown said the Resolution will go to the County Government Committee which will meet on November 19th should the Resolution go forward the 2 properties will transfer to the Columbia County Land Bank Corporation. Councilman Christian asked why the Town Board was involved in this? Chris answered saying the Land Bank gets permission from the Town Board for properties they are interested in. Corinne asked does the Town or County or Land Bank sign any collaborative agreement? Chris said it's a three party closing the Land Bank will pay for Phase I Environmental. Chris said there is nothing further to do with the Town than passing the Resolution.

Supervisor Helsley read the following Resolution:

TOWN BOARD
TOWN OF GERMANTOWN
COLUMBIA COUNTY, NEW YORK

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE TRANSFER OF PROPERTY TO THE COLUMBIA
COUNTY LAND BANK CORPORATION

Dated: November 6, 2025

WHEREAS, the Germantown Town Board recognizes that local housing prices are beyond the means of much of the local workforce, and;

WHEREAS, the Columbia County Board of Supervisors created the Columbia County Land Bank Corporation in response to local housing price increases and decreased housing availability, and;

WHEREAS, the Columbia County Land Bank Corporation seeks approval from the Town Board to initiate a transfer of tax-foreclosed properties within the Town, and;

WHEREAS, the properties are located on County Route 8, Parcel ID's 169.-1-33.112 and 169.-1-33.200

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Germantown Town Board that the Board supports the transfer of the above named parcels from the County of Columbia to the Columbia County Land Bank Corporation

Introduced by Councilmember Suarez

Seconded by Councilman Sullivan

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

Joyce Vale, Germantown Town Clerk

- County Hazard Mitigation Plan. Resolution to adopt.

TOWN BOARD
TOWN OF GERMANTOWN
COLUMBIA COUNTY, NEW YORK

RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE COLUMBIA COUNTY MULTI-JURISDICTION
NATURAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN
Dated: November 6, 2025

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Germantown recognizes the threat that natural hazards pose to people and property within the Town and Columbia County; and

WHEREAS, Columbia County, in conjunction with its constituent municipalities, has prepared the Columbia County Multi-Jurisdiction Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan, last revised June 2025 (the "HMP") in accordance with the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000; and

WHEREAS, the HMP identifies mitigation goals and actions to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to people and property in the Town of Germantown and Columbia County from the impacts of future hazards and disasters; and

WHEREAS, adoption by the Town Board of the Town of Germantown demonstrates the Town's commitment to hazard mitigation and achieving the goals outlined in the HMP.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Board of the Town of Germantown that the Columbia County Multi-Jurisdiction Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan, last revised June 2025 be and is hereby adopted. This plan may be edited or amended after submission for review, but will not require re-adoption by the Town for further iterations. This only applies to this specific plan and does not absolve the Town from updating the plan in conjunction with Columbia County every 5 years.

Introduced by Councilmember Suarez

Seconded by Supervisor Helsley

The question of the adoption of the foregoing Resolution was duly put to vote, which resulted as follows:

| | |
|----------------------------|-------------|
| Supervisor Helsley | Aye |
| Deputy Supervisor Sullivan | Aye |
| Councilmember Christian | Aye |
| Councilmember Kukon | Not Present |
| Councilmember Suarez | Aye |

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

Joyce Vale, Germantown Town Clerk

- Zoning and Subdivision Law Update. Next steps after the workshop. Once Matthew Rogers reviews the updates, Corinne will meet with Matthew. Corinne said we will ask for Matthew's recommendations then Supervisor Helsley will send the draft to the Planning and Zoning Boards.

- Bard Parcel. The survey update proposal has been signed. Letters to the affected residents will go out this weekend. Corinne suggested to wait on sending out the letters until we heard from DEC.

- Parsonage Roof. Work began 11/5/2025. Some structural issues were found with the roof rafters. Additional framing was added leaving the original framing in place. As much of the original roof planking as possible was re-installed. Additional cost of \$15,000.

Motion to authorize additional cost of \$15,000 for Parsonage Roof made by Councilman Christian, seconded by Councilman Sullivan, with all in favor and none opposed.

- Salt Shed Solar Array Service. Easement agreement with National Grid has been signed, next step pole placement. Solar materials have been delivered.

- Franchise Agreement with Hilltop Communications. Awaiting scheduling of updated negotiations. Supervisor Helsley has not heard anything. Corinne will reach out.

- Hamlet traffic safety. Resolution requesting speed limit reduction. Resolution requesting Columbia County to install traffic calming measures. Next Traffic Safety meeting scheduled for 11/20/25. Supervisor Helsley welcomed Alex Stier newly appointed to Columbia County Safety Board. Councilmember Suarez will attend the Traffic Safety meeting on 11/20/25.

Supervisor Helsley read the following Resolution:

TOWN BOARD
TOWN OF GERMANTOWN
COLUMBIA COUNTY, NEW YORK

RESOLUTION REQUESTING A SPEED LIMIT REDUCTION

Dated: November 6, 2025

WHEREAS, the segment of Main Street (County Route 8) in the Town of Germantown, Columbia County, NY between County Route 33 and State Route 9G experiences regular pedestrian and vehicular traffic, including people walking or bicycling to community facilities, parks, and public spaces; and

WHEREAS, the residents, business owners, and users of the roadway have expressed concerns regarding vehicle speeds along this corridor and the associated risks to pedestrian and traffic safety; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Germantown seeks to improve safety conditions and has determined that a reduction in the posted speed limit on Main Street between County Route 33 and State Route 9G would serve the public interest; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to New York Vehicle and Traffic Law § 1622(2), the Town Board may request that the New York State Department of Transportation (“NYSDOT”), upon receipt of a resolution passed by the Town Board and a certification from the County Superintendent of Highways, determine whether the speed limit on a county or town road outside of a village should be modified; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board wishes to formally request that NYSDOT evaluate and approve a reduction in the speed limit on Main Street between County Route 33 and State Route 9G to a speed limit appropriate for the character and use of the roadway.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Germantown hereby requests that the Columbia County Superintendent of Highways

file the necessary certification and submit this request to the New York State Department of Transportation for review and approval, and that NYSDOT authorize a reduction of the posted speed limit on Main Street between County Route 33 and State Route 9G and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to transmit a certified copy of this resolution to the Columbia County Superintendent of Highways and to such other agencies or offices as may be necessary to complete this request.

Introduced by Councilmember Suarez

Seconded by Councilman Sullivan

The question of the adoption of the foregoing Resolution was duly put to vote, which resulted as follows:

| | |
|----------------------------|-------------|
| Supervisor Helsley | Aye |
| Deputy Supervisor Sullivan | Aye |
| Councilmember Christian | Aye |
| Councilmember Kukon | Not present |
| Councilmember Suarez | Aye |

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

Joyce Vale, Germantown Town Clerk

- Resolution requesting Columbia County to install traffic calming measures. Supervisor Helsley read the following Resolution:

TOWN BOARD
TOWN OF GERMANTOWN
COLUMBIA COUNTY, NEW YORK

RESOLUTION REQUESTING COLUMBIA COUNTY INSTALL TRAFFIC CALMING
MEASURES

Dated: November 6, 2025

WHEREAS, Main Street (County Route 8) in the Town of Germantown, Columbia County, NY is a County-owned roadway under the jurisdiction and control of the Columbia County Department of Public Works/County Highway Superintendent; and

WHEREAS, the segment of Main Street (County Route 8) between County Route 33 and State Route 9G experiences regular pedestrian and vehicular traffic, including people walking or bicycling to community facilities, parks, retail shops, restaurants, and public spaces; and

WHEREAS, Main Street also contains marked pedestrian crosswalks used regularly by residents, children, seniors, and visitors accessing these places; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has received repeated concerns from residents, business owners, and pedestrians regarding vehicles traveling at speeds that exceed the posted limit and failing to yield at crosswalks along this corridor, creating hazardous conditions in an area with high pedestrian use; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has determined that physical traffic-calming measures--specifically speed bumps or speed tables-- are needed to slow traffic and protect pedestrians where traditional enforcement and signage have not sufficiently addressed speeding; and

WHEREAS, the Town recognizes that, as a County-owned roadway, no installation of traffic-calming devices may be performed by the Town, and approval and installation authority rests solely with the Columbia County Highway Superintendent; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board believes that the installation of traffic-calming features on Main Street is necessary to protect public safety and promote walkability within this vital center of Town.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Germantown hereby formally requests that the Columbia County Superintendent of Highways evaluate and approve installation of appropriate traffic-calming measures--including speed bumps or speed tables-- on Main Street (County Route 8) within the Town, with particular focus on the area between County Route 33 and State Route 9G; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Board requests that the County's evaluation include the marked pedestrian crosswalks and areas of concentrated

pedestrian activity associated with street parking and the hamlet's commercial district;
and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to transmit a certified copy of this Resolution to the Columbia County Superintendent of Highways, the Columbia County Traffic Safety Board, and such other agencies as may be required for this request.

Introduced by Councilman Sullivan

Seconded by Councilmember Suarez

The question of the adoption of the foregoing Resolution was duly put to vote, which resulted as follows:

| | |
|----------------------------|-------------|
| Supervisor Helsley | Aye |
| Deputy Supervisor Sullivan | Aye |
| Councilmember Christian | Aye |
| Councilmember Kukon | Not Present |
| Councilmember Suarez | Aye |

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

Joyce Vale, Germantown Town Clerk

New Business

- Resolution to adopt the 2026 Town operating budget. Supervisor Helsley read the following Resolution:

TOWN BOARD
TOWN OF GERMANTOWN
COLUMBIA COUNTY, NEW YORK

RESOLUTION ADOPTING ANNUAL BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026
Dated: November 6, 2025

WHEREAS, a public hearing was duly held on October 14, 2025 on the Preliminary Budget approved by this Board and filed with the Town Clerk for the fiscal

year commencing January 1, 2026 and having heard all persons desiring to be heard in the matter and the matter of the budget for this Town for such fiscal year having been fully discussed and considered, it is

RESOLVED, that the Preliminary Budget is approved and filed as aforesaid, and hereby amended as follows:

| (Budget line item) Amount | (Account no.) | (Increase/Decrease) from (dollar amount) to dollar |
|------------------------------|---------------|---|
| Buildings Equipment | A1620.2 | Decrease from \$10,000 to \$5,000 |
| Data Proc Proc & Cap | A1680.2 | Increase from \$0 to \$3,000 |
| Ctrl Data Pros Ctr Ex | A1680.4 | Increase from \$0 to \$2,000 |

And as so amended is hereby approved and established as the budget for the Town of Germantown for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2026.

Introduced by Councilman Sullivan

Seconded by Councilmember Suarez

The question of the adoption of the foregoing Resolution was duly put to vote, which resulted as follows:

| | |
|----------------------------|-------------|
| Supervisor Helsley | Aye |
| Deputy Supervisor Sullivan | Aye |
| Councilmember Christian | Aye |
| Councilmember Kukon | Not Present |
| Councilmember Suarez | Aye |

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

Joyce Vale, Germantown Town Clerk

- Recreation Committee Presentation. Presentation from Tatianna Carayannis and Sandra Osborne. Tatianna said the goal of the committee is to cater to all ages and be conscious of costs and community interest. Tatianna said they have a number of pickle ball pop ups and had a introductory session for pickle ball for Parkinsons. Sandra spoke about building pickle ball courts. Tatianna said the committee is working on a proposal to build pickle ball courts and looking into how other towns have did along with

costs. Tatianna asked if there is a possibility to paint lines where basketball courts are? Supervisor Helsley will ask Anthony about painting lines on the basketball courts. Councilmember Suarez is in favor of pickle ball courts. Tatianna said winter co-ed soccer has started. There will be a turkey stroll Saturday, November 29th at 2pm. The stroll will start on the trails then to the Activity Building for cider. Tatianna said they explored other activities like kayaking in the lake, bike rides. Any suggestions let them know. Tatianna said open play ping pong in the Activity Building. Tatianna said they need more active members and need storage for their equipment. Councilmember Suarez suggested sectioning off an area in the maintenance shed. Supervisor Helsley appreciated the hard work they put into this. Councilmember Suarez and Councilman Christian said there is a resident willing to donate labor to build a kayak rack for Lasher Park.

- Joe Guido stepping down from the ZBA . Alternate Bill Rosado agreed to fill in for the remainder of the term.

Motion to approve Bill Rosado fill in the remainder of the term held by Joe Guido on the ZBA made by Councilman Sullivan, seconded by Councilmember Suarez, with all in favor and none opposed.

Supervisor's Report

- Haunted Hayrides on Saturday, 10/18/25 was a HUGE success- Over 1,000 people attended. Thank you to all of the volunteers and especially Jen Crawford and Sarah Suarez for all of their hard work. Supervisor Helsley is looking forward to next year!

- Supervisor Helsley announced that the Donna Diehl Thanksgiving Dinner tradition will continue- Thank you to Jim Lawlor and everyone involved for continuing this tradition.

- Thank you to the voters.

Comments from Councilmembers

Councilmember Suarez asked if the signs on the old beach house bathrooms could be moved over to the Activity Building where Big Towel is where events could be posted on them?

Councilmember Suarez said a resident would like to donate their services for low budget beautification projects.

Councilmember Suarez and Councilman Christian making a new calendar for website for activities and the Activity Building.

Councilmember Suarez and Councilman Christian said Tom Shannon wanted to bring the Bard artifacts to the Town Board's attention. Town Board agreed to be on the December agenda.

Councilman Christian said the Town Board received emails from the Climate Resilient Team in regards to the flooding at Lasher Park as part of the estuary program and wants to interview people. Councilman Christian will ask Anthony to attend the meeting on November 12th.

Councilman Christian said DEC recently opened the invasive species grant and he had talked to Martin Overington on the WAC about it and the thought is to buying a cutter for second boat with the funds from that grant. Deadline for grant is December 17th.

Matthew applied for Greenway grant to help fund the rezoning and nobody following through the bills from LaBella should be submitted. Councilman Christian will organize then Supervisor Helsley can sign. Councilman Christian said the Town Clerk gave him an email with a survey from the Land Conservancy. Supervisor Helsley will fill the survey out and send back to the Land Conservancy.

Comments and Questions from the public

Tony Albino suggested alerting the public to the new Fire Alarm Law and that they have to fill out the registration which goes to Brandon. Councilmember Suarez will post the law and the registration on the Town website.

Martin Overington asked in regards to the rezoning law, if he had a trailer in his front yard could he rent it out? Supervisor Helsley said the Town Board is still working on the draft law. Martin thanked Councilman Christian for his comments on lighting for the rezoning. Martin wants all down lighting. Supervisor Helsley told Martin he can comment on these items at the Public Hearing. Martin said WAC received the Hover Grant and they are looking into the DEC grant to purchase another cutter. Martin asked where the Salt Shed pole is going? Supervisor Helsley said in between the two evergreen trees on the east side of the building. Martin is in support of the speed changes. Martin appreciates Big Towel's business but is asking if there could be screen doors put on, so the main doors wouldn't be propped open? Supervisor Helsley said the doors should be closed. Councilmember Suarez will let them know to keep doors closed. Martin would like the Christmas Cantada in memorial for Donna Diehl held on December 14th added to the town calendar.

Councilmember Suarez mentioned the Winter Glow will be held on December 13th.

Councilman Sullivan said there was a comment posted on zoom about ADU's.

Next meeting is December 9th at 7pm

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:16pm made by Councilmember Suarez, seconded by Councilman Sullivan, with all in favor and none opposed.

Respectfully submitted,

DRAFT