

Minutes of February 10, 2026, Germantown Town Board meeting, held in the Germantown Town Hall, 50 Palatine Park Road, Germantown, NY and via Zoom, commencing at 7:00pm.

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 January 13, 2026 Re-Organization meeting minutes, January 13, 2026 meeting minutes, January 27, 2026 workshop minutes and the January 27, 2026 Special board meeting minutes made by Councilmember Suarez, seconded by Councilman Kukon, with all in favor and none opposed.

Review of Financial Reports- Comments, Questions. Supervisor Helsley did not receive the year end report yet.

Motion to pay the audited bills for February 2026 made by Councilman Kukon, seconded by Councilman Sullivan, with all in favor and none opposed.

Written Communications to the Town Clerk

Town Clerk received Highway Report, History Annual Report and History January meeting report.

MONTHLY REPORT

1- A LOT OF SNOW

2-HAULED SNOW OUT OF VILLAGE

3-USED SNOWBLOWER TO OPEN UP ROADS THAT WERE GETTING NARROW

4-REPLACED FLEX PIPE THAT'S OFF THE TURBO ON 10-WHEELER

5-INSTALLED NEW CUTTING EDGE ON LOADER AND 2020 TRUCK

6-REPLACED HYDRAULIC LINE ON 10-WHEELER AND F-250 PLOW

7- 7 CALL BEFORE YOU DIG

8-HAULED ROAD SAND IN

9-ORDERED 100 TON OF SALT

ANTHONY CIDRAS
HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT

History Advisory Committee

Jan. 31st, 2026

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

- Rezoning Committee's plan: We went over some concerns expressed by the Town Board about the demolition permit procedure and historic overlay districts in the proposed rezoning plan. Tom will draft a letter for the History Advisory Committee's review, and submission to the Town Board, based on the discussion we had today.

- The Pomeroy Foundation granted a Historic Transportation marker for Cheviot Park. This is a relatively new program. It will be the first marker of its kind in Columbia County. The text of the sign, improved by Tom's original by Pomeroy's historians, is below:

CHEVIOT LANDING
BY 1851, HUDSON RIVER RR RAN
THROUGH EAST CAMP LANDING. HUB
OF COMMERCE & TRAVEL, RENAMED
CHEVIOT 1886. REMANANTS OF 1911
DOCK VISIBLE AT LOW TIDE.

- A graduate student from UAlbany's Information Science program has expressed interest in completing a required archiving project at the Germantown History Department. She will visit the Parsonage on Saturday, Feb. 7th.

- Our application for archival funding to the Documentary Heritage and Preservation Services for New York was turned down.

- We received shipment of 13 five-gallon buckets of gravestone cleaner on Thursday. This is part of the 2025 Hover Foundation grant award. It is earmarked for Viewmonte Cemetery come spring.

- The other town items requested in the 2025 Hover grant were a historic marker for the 1778 Loyalist Raid and an updated one for the first public school in Germantown. Tom will place an order to the foundry for the Loyalist raid sign. The first public school sign requires more research, probably including a trip to the NYS Archives.

- Tom broached the subject of applying to the Hudson River Band and Trust Foundation to fund a program where municipal historians from around Columbia County could receive gravestone cleaning supplies upon request. Alvin would like to see it more focused on the three towns of Livingston, Clermont, and Germantown. We will refine the particulars before the February FOHG meeting and pitch the idea there. HRBT accepts applications on a rolling basis.

- Sue and Bill Droege have expressed interest in donating funds to FOHG for the purpose of a Revolutionary War monmument in Germantown. Tom's drafts are attached along with these minutes. We discussed possible locations for the monument to recommend to the Town Board, but did not come to a decision yet.

- Tom discussed the plan to automate the History Department libray and build an OPAC (online public access catalog) for it. Librarika seems like the most promising free

program to use. The Town/Village of Greene, NY Historian recently built an OPAC for his library with it. Most other options require an annual fee.

- The committee discussed the possibility of having a float in the 2026 Flag Day parade in Hudson. Hank suggested bringing Clermont and Livingston into the fold for this. Others suggested pulling in other community groups to help if they are interested. Tom will put in an application and the rest of the committee will brainstorm ideas.

- The committee will build a priority list of veterans to suggest to FOHG for the Hometown Heroes banner program.

- Events:

-Feb. 22nd at 2PM, Tom will lecture about the Revolutionary War in southern Columbia County using the memoirs of William Smith, Jr. As the primary source material. Hosted by the Columbia County Historical Society at the Hudson Area Library.

-March 21st at 10:30AM. Tom will give a history of the 1767 Parsonage to the Germantown Garden Club. This will be held in the Hover Room at the Germantown Library.

Old Business

- Zoning and Subdivision Law Update. Workshop with LaBella held January 27, 2026. Revisions to be reviewed with the CEO and circulated back to Matthew. Corinne had a phone call with Brandon and confirmed his comments, filled in the blanks. The only change not incorporated was the recreational vehicles. Councilman Sullivan commented recreational vehicles are not an STR. Corinne said the next steps are Matthew finalizing the draft, then circulate to all boards then to the County, then probably more than one public hearing.

- Theodore Robinson Forest. Additional survey work is complete- The Town Attorney has circulated to DEC with no response yet. Once approved, the map will be filed.

- Salt Shed Solar array service. Hudson Solar work is complete. Awaiting DPW to dig the trench and complete the service.

-Franchise Agreement with Hilltop Communications. A meeting to be scheduled. Tentative meeting set for Friday, February 27, 2026 at 2:00pm. Corinne will re-circulate franchise agreement.

- Hamlet traffic safety.

Motion to appoint Eric Arlund as County Representative to the Traffic Safety Board made by Councilmember Suarez, seconded by Supervisor Helsley, with all in favor and none opposed.

Councilmember Suarez said there is no decision on the speed limit sign reduction at the January meeting. Councilmember Suarez said the when she spoke with the Columbia County Sheriff's department in regards to the speed trailer and once the roads are all cleared up the speed trailer can go in the hamlet.

- Discussion of MOU between FOHG and the Town. Discussion about the meeting with FOHG and Supervisor Helsley, Councilmember Suarez and Corinne. Resolution authorizing the signing of the MOU between the Town of Germantown and FOHG. Tom Shannon will budget for projects if needed. All fund raising has to go through FOHG.

Ethan Dickerson thanked the Town Board. Supervisor Helsley read the following Resolution:

TOWN BOARD
TOWN OF GERMANTOWN
COLUMBIA COUNTY, NEW YORK

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH
FRIENDS OF HISTORIC GERMANTOWN

WHEREAS, the Town of Germantown and Friends of Historic Germantown (“FOHG”), a private not-for-profit corporation with 501c (3) tax exempt status, have negotiated a Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Germantown hereby authorizes the Town Supervisor to execute the MOU.

On a motion by Councilmember Suarez, 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.

Joyce Vale, Town Clerk

- Pickleball Courts Grant. Grant submission and all associated paperwork is complete. Total grant is for \$220,000.00 will find out in May if we get the grant. Supervisor Helsley thanked the Recreation committee and Councilman Christian.

- Lasher Park docks. Meeting with DEC, Supervisor Helsley and Councilman Christian. Councilman Christian met with Dock Doctors was given a rough estimate of \$25,000. A kayak launch platform would not hold up to the wave action off of the end of the boat launch. Improvements will be happening fall of 2026. Conduits to be installed by the paving contractor for electrical repairs.

New Business

- Kellner Rental Agreement discussion. Councilmember Suarez brought up the fee schedule for profit events and the town getting 10% of the profits. Motion to remove the for profit line from the agreement made by Councilmember Suarez, seconded by Councilman Sullivan, with all in favor and none opposed.

-CCSWCD (Columbia County Soil Water Conservation District) free Earth Day tree program. The Park Commission will decide on where the tree is planted.

-Establish a date for Independence Day Celebration. Columbia County 250th will be happening. Tom Shannon said the County is doing the 250th Celebration on Flag Day. Supervisor Helsley will contact fireworks companies then let the Town Board know of the dates available.

- Ice house Landing. Greenway watertrail site? Martin Overington said they would like to make Ice House Landing into a park. They would like Tom Shannon to put a historic plaque there. People can either hike in or kayak in. Martin said WAC is asking for support for Greenway. Councilman Christian questioned zoning, park designation for Town not classified as a Town park. Corinne said intent as using it as waterfront park indication on how using the property, fine to keep as a park. Corinne said the Assessor

could change the tax roll codes designation. Councilman Christian wondered if the insurance will change. Supervisor Helsley will check on that. Councilman Christian said it brings it into eligible for a grant once named waterfront trail site.

Motion to allow WAC to make Ice House Landing a Greenway Water Trail Site and authorize Supervisor Helsley to sign the request made by Councilmember Suarez, seconded by Councilman Christian, with all in favor and none opposed.

- Earth Day. Opening of Robinson Forest. Councilman Christian announced the ribbon cutting is on Saturday, April 25th and they would like to invite local representatives. DEC will also have a small program. Supervisor Helsley suggested that Tom Shannon give a small presentation on why the park was named Theodore Robinson Forest. Councilmember Suarez suggested a picnic. Councilman Christian would like CSC to get involved.

- Grievance Day. Local Law to change date. Corinne said Cheryl Kaszuga contacted her to change the date of Grievance Day to either Friday, May 29th 2026, which would be the last Friday in May or Thursday, June 4th 2026, which would be the first Thursday in June. Corinne said the Local Law could be rescinded.

Supervisor's Report

- No report this month.

Comments from Councilmembers

No comments from Council.

Comments and Questions from the public

Kerrie Abela would like permission to change sewer billing on 4 properties. Terry Jenkins, Cupps Coffee, Elizabeth Dornaman, Dawn Wildley, each of these properties has additional dwellings. Town Board agreed for changes to be made.

Martin Overington mentioned the County is dumping snow down on lower Main Street and the salt from this snow is going down the drain which goes to the Hudson River. Martin asked if Big Towel is paying a utility bill? Supervisor Helsley said they are going to renegotiate the contract with Big Towel for next year, this will be on the March agenda.

Tony Albino asked new date for Grievance Day. Supervisor Helsley said June 4th. Tony wanted to know if Tom Shannon and Les Olsson would be there. Tom answered, he would be there. Tony will check with Les.

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

Respectfully submitted,

