

History Advisory Committee
Feb. 28th, 2026

Attendance: Alvin Sheffer, Hank Himelright, Richard Coons, Tom Shannon, Ethan Dickerman

- Matthew Rogers, the Rezoning Committee consultant, asked Tom and Tony to review and address the questions and concerns about the Historic Overlay Districts map. Tom will follow up in the next day or two.
- Tom attended an information session regarding the Cementon Redevelopment Plan. There will be a public hearing in April 2026. There will be a public comment period on the Generic Environmental Impact Study sometime in 2027. More information can be found on their website:
<https://www.investingreene.com/cementon-rebirth-plan/>
- Pomeroy Historic Transportation sign for Cheviot Park: the grant award was received by the Town. The order form and payment have been received by Sewah Studios, which will produce the sign.
- Orders have been placed with Catskill Castings for the Loyalist Raid and First Schoolhouse historic signs.
- We have 170 gallons of gravestone cleaner on hand, as well as the tripod and hoist kit for repairing gravestones that we recently ordered.
- Revolutionary War monument: the donation to Friends of Historic Germantown has been received. Tom and Sharon will submit the order to Henderson Monuments early next week. We discussed a few different potential locations for the monument.
- Liberty Pole: we discussed potentially erecting a Liberty Pole similar to the several that were built and destroyed in New York City in the ten years between the Stamp Act and the Revolutionary War. We have some options to make this happen at minimal expense. Would like it to be placed near the new Rev War monument.
- Flag Day Parade 2026: this will be the primary Columbia County event to celebrate America 250. We have a couple of months to make a decision on

whether to participate. We decided to reach out to some other Germantown organizations to see if they would want to collaborate on a parade float.

- Hometown Heroes banners: We will ask FOHG to fund banners for Eugene Van Cortlandt Myers, a Civil War vet better known for his photography, and George E. Lasher, a WWI vet who was wounded in action.
- Cloud storage for the Germantown History Department. Rich copied everything currently in DropBox into the Germantown History Google account. Would like the Town to pick up the cost of the Google and/or DropBox storage fees. Tom will discuss options with the Town Board.
- Ethan and Kate Wood conducted a thorough walk through of the Parsonage last Saturday to document electrical needs. Hoping to have an estimate from a contractor by the end of March. From there, we can prioritize projects if need be, and develop a scope of work. FOHG can also begin fundraising for the project.
- UAlbany graduate student, Isabelle Volin-Kelder, and Tom have been working on properly archiving the late 18th and early 19th century William Wilson letters, court documents, and receipts.
- The Memorandum of Understanding between the Town and FOHG has been signed by both parties. It is in effect for three years.
- Events:
 - Talk about the 1767 Parsonage for the G'town Garden Club, March 21st, 10:30 AM. Hover Room, Germantown Library.
 - William Smith Jr.'s Historical Memoirs, rescheduled to March 29th, 2 PM at the Hudson Area Library.
 - Earth Day Celebration and Ceremonial Opening of the Theodore Robinson Community Forest, April 26th, 10 AM to 3 PM. Various events including house tours of the Parsonage, and a presentation by Tom and Ethan about black history in Germantown.