

Minutes of March 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

Town Attorney, Corinne Smith

Present via Zoom: Councilman Christian

Recorded by: Town Clerk, Joyce Vale

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

Motion to approve the February 10, 2026 Town Board meeting minutes made by Councilman Sullivan, seconded by Councilmember Suarez, with all in favor and none opposed.

Review of Financial Reports- Comments, Questions

Motion to pay the audited bills for March 2026 made by Councilmember Suarez, seconded by Supervisor Helsley. Councilman Sullivan opposed.

Written Communications to the Town Clerk

Town Clerk received History and Highway department reports. Also, an email in favor of Big Towel, which will be on file in the Town Clerk office.

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, 10:30AM. Hover Room, Germantown Library
 - William Smith Jr.'s Historical Memoirs, rescheduled to March 29th, 2PM at the Hudson Area Library.
 - Earth Day Celebration and Ceremonial Opening of the Theodore Robinson Community Forest, April 26th, 10AM to 3PM. Various events including house tours of the Parsonage, and a presentation by Tom and Ethan about black history in Germantown.

MONTHLY REPORT

1-LOT OF SNOW AND ICE

2-RECEIVED ORDER OF SALT

3-STARTED TO CLEANUP INTER SECTION

4-HAD 6 TREES TAKEN DOWN

5-8 CALL BEFORE YOU DIG

6-SERVICED THE 6-WHEELER

7-CHANGED FURNACE FILTERS, WATER FILTERS AND CLEAN UV LIGHTS

8-NEED TO REPLACE GARAGE DOOR OPENER IN HIGHWAY GARAGE C&R DOORS WAS BEST PRICE AT \$1875

9-HAVE HAULED IN ROAD SAND

ANTHONY CIDRAS
HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT

Old Business

- Zoning and Subdivision Law Update. Revisions after CEO review have been circulated back to Matthew.

- Theodore Robinson Forest. Revised survey map has been filed. Councilman Christian said there are a few more items to do on our side, create trails and signage. More work will have to be done before we can request the final funds.

- 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. Supervisor Helsley and Corinne met with Archtop. They are proposing a franchise agreement extension through 2026 and negotiation of the future agreement terms and length in the next few months. 2024 and 2025 franchise payments have been received. Public Hearing date set for April 14, 2026 at 7pm.

- Hamlet traffic safety.

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

- Kellner Rental Agreement discussion. Councilmember Suarez brought up the standard operating procedures for when people rent the building of what they are supposed to do like lighting, kitchen use and the heating. Supervisor Helsley will draft the operating procedures agreement. Anthony would like to put a key pad on the maintenance closet. Councilmember Suarez suggested leaving a broom and dust pan out for clean up.

- Independence Day Celebration- Sunday, July 5th. Santore's World Famous Fireworks has been booked. Supervisor Helsley said he booked the band "Guilty Pleasure" for the celebration.

- Designation of Ice House Landing as Hudson River Greenway Water Trail Site. Motion declaring the Town Board as lead agency designating the action as an unlisted action authorizing the Supervisor to sign SEAF Part I made by Councilmember Suarez, seconded by Councilman Sullivan, with all in favor and none opposed.

Supervisor Helsley read the following Resolution:

TOWN BOARD
TOWN OF GERMANTOWN
COLUMBIA COUNTY, NEW YORK

RESOLUTION REQUESTING HUDSON RIVER GREENWAY TRAIL SITE
DESIGNATION

Dated: March 10, 2026

WHEREAS, the Hudson River Greenway Water Trail includes water trail sites along the Hudson River extending from northern Saratoga County and northern Washington County to Battery Park, containing access points and day use sites and campsites for the public; and

WHEREAS, Ice House Landing meets the criteria for designation as a Hudson River Greenway Water Trail Site;

WHEREAS, designation as a water trail site opens grant funding opportunities through the Hudson River Greenway; and

WHEREAS, Town Board declared itself lead agency, determined that this is an Unlisted Action, and issued a Negative Declaration for the proposed action pursuant to SEQR.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Germantown hereby requests that Ice House Landing be designated as a Hudson River Greenway Trail Site.

On a motion by Councilmember Suarez, and seconded by Councilman Sullivan 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

New Business

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-Motion to approve the invasive species pull at Palatine Park on April 17, 2026 made by Councilmember Suarez, seconded by Councilman Sullivan, with all in favor and none opposed.

Thank you Molly Marquand for coordinating this event.

- Motion to appoint Adam Hurwitz to the Planning Board to serve a term of 7 years concluding 12/31/2033 made by Councilman Sullivan, seconded by Councilmember Suarez, with all in favor and none opposed.

- Motion to appoint Craig Dorian to the Board of Assessment Review for a term concluding 12/31/2030 made by Councilman Sullivan, seconded by Councilman Kukon, with all in favor and none opposed.

- Local Law A- Changing Grievance Day to the first Thursday in June.

Supervisor Helsley read the following Resolution:

TOWN BOARD
TOWN OF GERMANTOWN
COLUMBIA COUNTY, NEW YORK

RESOLUTION ADOPTING LOCAL LAW
Dated: March 10, 2026

WHEREAS, Local Law A of 2026 changing grievance day, a copy of which is annexed hereto, was laid on the desks of the members of the Town Board for at least 10 days; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing was duly noticed and held on March 10, 2026 during which time members of public had the opportunity to submit oral and written comments on the local law.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Board of the Town of Germantown that Local Law A of 2026 is hereby adopted and renumbered as Local Law No. 1 of 2026.

Introduced by Councilman Sullivan
Seconded by Councilman Kukon

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	Aye
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

- Big Towel agreement for Fall 2026- Spring 2027. Utility usage to be reviewed and updated. Supervisor Helsley will review the heat usage for the updated agreement. Corinne will update the last day of the agreement as May 17, 2026.

- Parsonage Archaeology Agreement with Hartgen. Resolution accepting a donation from Friends of Historic Germantown and Authorizing the Hartgen Statement of Work. Receiving a generous \$4,800 donation from FOHG. Corinne it will determine if Bard will let Hartgen into Bard to do an assessment. Tom said the assessment will let us know how big the collection is. A blueprint on how to care for the artifacts. Tom visited the Record Room to check out if there was available space there it depends how big the collection is.

Supervisor Helsley read the following Resolution:

TOWN BOARD
TOWN OF GERMANTOWN
COLUMBIA COUNTY, NEW YORK

Dated: March 10, 2026

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CONTRACT AND ACCEPTING DONATION

WHEREAS, Friends of Historic Germantown (“FOHG”) has proposed that the Town of Germantown enter into an agreement with Hartgen Archeological Associates, Inc. (“Hartgen”) to assess the Parsonage Archeology Collection held currently at Bard College (the “Project”); and

WHEREAS, Hartgen provided the attached agreement and quote in the amount of \$4,800 for the scope of work; and

WHEREAS, FOHG has offered a donation to the Town in the amount of \$4,800 to cover the Project costs.

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

1. That the Supervisor be, and he hereby is, authorized to accept Hartgen’s quote and execute a contract for such Project, subject to approval by the attorney for the Town; and
2. That FOHG’s donation in the amount of \$4,800 is hereby accepted and will be Applied to the Projects costs.

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

Supervisor’s Report

- Earth Day- Official opening of the Theodore Robinson Forest to be held on April 26, 2026- Activities to be held from 10AM until early afternoon- Ribbon Cutting at 11AM.
- Happy to report the filling of the PB seat and one BAR seat. We still have one open BAR seat.
- Stationing of an Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Watercraft Steward at the Germantown/Ernest R. Lasher Memorial Park Boat Launch for the 2026 boating season.
- By April 2027, NYS will require all municipal websites to be ADA compliant- To be discussed further in future meetings.

Comments from Councilmembers

Councilman Christian mentioned the Town Board got a letter from Sandra Osborne in regards to an artist studio in the Rezoning Law draft.

Comments and Questions from the public

John Rustici asked if the Town Board needed to appoint his new Court Clerk.

Motion to appoint Cassandra Owen as Court Clerk at an hourly rate of \$25.00 per hour made by Councilman Sullivan, seconded by Councilmember Suarez, with all in favor and none opposed.

Motion to enter executive session at 7:33pm made by Councilman Sullivan, seconded by Councilmember Suarez, with all in favor and none opposed.

Motion to exit executive session at 8:08pm made by Councilmember Suarez, seconded by Councilman Sullivan, with all in favor and none opposed.

Motion to adjourn at 8:09pm made by Councilmember Suarez, seconded by Councilman Kukon, with all in favor and none opposed.

Respectfully submitted,