

Minutes of April 14, 2026, Germantown Town Board meeting, held in the Germantown Town Hall, 50 Palatine Park Road, Germantown, NY and via Zoom, commencing at 7:01pm.

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 the Pledge to the Flag.

Motion to approve the March 10, 2026 Public Hearing and Town 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 just received the reports today.

Motion to pay audited bills for April 2026 made by Councilman Sullivan, seconded by Supervisor Helsley, with all in favor and none opposed.

#### **Written Communications to the Town Clerk**

Town Clerk received monthly Highway report. A letter from a resident in regards to Big Towel- letter will be filed in the Town Clerk office.

#### APRIL REPORT

- 1-FINISHED BROAMING ROADS
- 2-ANCHORAGE DOCKS ARE IN
- 3-REPAIRED BRAKE LINES AND REAR BRAKES ON AMBULANCE
- 4-HAD FRONT AXLE SEAL AND BALL BARINGS REPLACED ON LOADER
- 5-HAVE STARTED WORKING ON BAALFIELDS
- 6- ASSISTED D.E.C IN PREP WORK TO PREPARE FOR DOCK INSTALL
- 7-MADE MODIFICATIONS TO NEW DOCKS THAT WE WILL BE INSTALLING AT CHEVIOT
- 8-COMPLETED FIRST PASS OF PICKING GARBAGE UP OFF SIDE OF ROAD AND PARK
- 9-HAULED IN SAND AND TOPSOIL
- 10-12 CALL BEFORE DIG

ANTHONY CIDRAS  
HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT

#### **Old Business**

- Zoning and Subdivision Law Update. Revisions after CEO have been circulated back to Matthew. Corinne can circulate to internal boards and CEO for review and changes, then schedule a public hearing.

- Theodore Robinson Forest. Grand opening April 26, 2026- Ribbon cutting at 11AM.

- Salt Shed Solar array service. Awaiting final connection by National Grid. Councilman Christian mentioned the IRS Elective Pay once hooked up. Councilman Christian and Supervisor Helsley will fill out the document ASAP.

- Franchise Agreement with Hilltop Communications. Resolution authorizing Franchise Agreement extension.

Supervisor Helsley read the following Resolution:

TOWN BOARD  
TOWN OF GERMANTOWN  
COLUMBIA COUNTY, NEW YORK

RESOLUTION APPROVING CABLE TELEVISION FRANCHISE TEMPORARY  
EXTENSION AGREEMENT

Dated: April 14, 2026

WHEREAS, the Town of Germantown and Hilltop Communications, Inc., are parties to a Cable Television Franchise Agreement dated July 19, 2010 (the "Agreement"), with an initial term of 15 years and the option to renew; and

WHEREAS, Archtop Fiber LLC, as successor to Hilltop Communications, Inc., requested consideration for temporarily extending the Agreement through December 31, 2027; and

WHEREAS, the Town and Archtop Fiber LLC have negotiated a Temporary Extension Agreement; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing for the discussion of the Temporary Extension Agreement was duly noticed and held on April 14, 2026; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board believes it to be in the best interest of the residents of the Town to approve said agreement.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Germantown hereby approves the Temporary Extension Agreement, subject to review and approval by the Attorney for the Town, and that the Supervisor is hereby authorized to sign the Temporary Extension Agreement.

On a motion by Councilman Sullivan, 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

- Hamlet traffic safety. Any updates? Councilmember Suarez heard from the Columbia County Sheriff's department, they discussed enhanced patrols.

- Independence Day Celebration- Sunday, July 5<sup>th</sup>. Santore's World Famous Fireworks has been booked. Guilty Pleasure Band booked. Meeting to discuss details and assignments. Councilmember Suarez will help the Town Clerk set up the liquor license.

- Designation of Ice House Landing as Hudson River Greenway Water Trail Site. SEQR revision. Corinne wanted more information on Part 1 on the form so Councilman Christian went in answered additional questions.

Motion to ratify the revisions to Part 1 of the short EAF and reconfirm the adoption of Part 2 of the short EAF made by Councilman Sullivan, seconded by Councilmember Suarez, with all in favor and none opposed.

- Big Towel agreement for Fall 2026- Spring 2027. Utility usage was reviewed and not much of an increase- current charges are sufficient. Corinne has the initial agreement. Supervisor Helsley will look it over, rental fee will go up some. Revisions for the May meeting.

- Parsonage Archaeology Agreement with Hartgen. Letter requesting access to Bard storage has been sent via email. Supervisor Helsley signed the agreement with Hartgen.

- Lasher Park Docks. New docks were installed. Quote for additional dock is \$43k-\$45k. DEC will bury new conduits for electrical services. Install new LED lights? Councilman Christian speaking to Greenway about the dock. Councilman Christian said the Greenway grant would cover about half of it but he is not sure if we need to apply right now maybe wait until the next grant cycle. Town Board agreed to see if any boaters complain about the new docks. Councilman Christian also mentioned DEC is planning to cut trees would like advice from Collin Brown if the trees should be cut down. Discussion on the LED lights. Martin Overington said they don't need 30' light poles a 10' pole is sufficient. Martin was asked by the Town Board for suggestions for the light poles.

### **New Business**

- Recreation Committee applying for a grant for improvements. Sandra Osborne said they have an opportunity to apply for a new grant. Ackerman Foundation grant, which is a Columbia County based grant. The grant would be used to improve the basketball court, have a kayak program on the Lake George South, buy 4-6 kayaks and keep them locked up, the lessons would be supervised and waivers would be signed.

Councilmember Suarez said the Park Commission would be on board would help with the purchases. Councilman Christian said it is similar to the to the event held by the LWRP.

Motion for the Recreation Committee to apply for the Ackerman Foundation grant made by Councilman Sullivan, seconded by Councilmember Suarez with all in favor and none opposed.

- Kayak Rack on supports from Old Building at Lasher Park. Volunteer or RFP?.

Design specs. Councilman Christian said Andy Fennell volunteered to build the kayak rack. The approximate cost is \$1,300. Councilman Christian feels this is a good idea. Councilmember Suarez said maybe some funding from the Park Commission.

Councilman Christian said maybe some funding from WAC. Supervisor Helsley will get approval from Brandon first. Martin Overington suggested to start off small that way you can always expand.

- Motion to approve to liquor licenses. Pudding Mates d/b/a Nines and Two Guys Local Bites. Dan Edwards owner of Two Guys Local Bites said they are doing mostly take out and have some seasonal outdoor seating. Town Board approved both.

- Motion to approve the Agreement for the Expenditure of Highway Moneys as submitted by the Highway Superintendent made by Councilman Sullivan, seconded by Councilmember Suarez, with all in favor and none opposed.

- NYSLRS- updated ROA needed for all part time appointed or elected officials. Resolution approving Standard Work Day to be submitted in May.

- Approval for the Girl Scouts to plant some native trees at Roe Jan Park or near the Parsonage. Councilman Christian said the date is April 26, 2026. Councilman Christian asked Tom Shannon if the trees could be planted in Robinson Forest by the entrance.

### **Supervisor's Report**

- Invasive species pull at Palatine Park on April 17, 2026.

- 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. Councilman Christian said there will be no ribbon across the entrance. Councilman Christian said there will be 5 speakers on the front door of the Parsonage, Supervisor Helsley will be the official opener. Councilmember Suarez said the Recreational Committee will do a nature walk on the trails, Tom Shannon will give a talk in the Hover Room of the Library, Cups Coffee will provide drinks.

- Columbia County Solid Waste has been operating at nearly a \$1 Million dollar deficit for several years. A county workgroup was formed to review the operations and make suggestions for changes to decrease costs. Germantown Convenience Station was identified as one for closure. Supervisor Helsley requested additional information as this closure would not result in significant savings.

### **Comments from Councilmembers**

Councilman Kukon and Councilman Sullivan met with Little League a few weeks ago and was brought to their attention that members of the community would like to help restore the town parks. Councilman Kukon met with Alleghany Drainage, Chad Lent and Anthony in regards to drainage on the ballfields. In a few weeks Alleghany Drainage will give them a proposal on fixing the drainage on the ballfields. Sandra Osborne asked if the drainage will also be for the pickleball courts? Councilman Kukon said the drainage is for the ballfields.

Councilmember Suarez mentioned the Town Wide Yard Sale is on Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup> from 9AM to 4PM, you can register on **aroundgtown.com** by May 13<sup>th</sup>.

Councilman Christian said the Town Board has been emailed by the Greene County Development manager about possible development in Cementon. Councilman Christian is concerned about the actual SEQR and has reached out to FOHG.

Town Clerk, Joyce Vale piggy backed off Councilmember Suarez mentioning the Germantown Garden Club will be holding their annual plant, bake & tag sale on same day as the Town Wide Yard Sale, May 16<sup>th</sup> from 8am-1pm.

### **Comments and Questions from the public**

Mr. Johnson is part of the team that owns and operates 11 Main Street. Mr. Johnson said they are going to re-activate the Cold Storage Warehouse offering free nutritious meals and distributing prepared meals. Mr. Johnson will pursuing permits and zoning specifications to make this possible.

Martin Overington said he and his wife Kathy have organized the annual Riversweep for 29 years. This year the Riversweep will be held on Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> starting 9AM at Cheviot and will end at Lasher Park by noon. Volunteers are always welcome. Martin said they usually produce at least 2 truck loads a year. Martin also said WAC pleased to help with the kayak stand. Martin is hoping they make the Ice House into a park. Martin thanked the Town and Park Commission.

Tom Shannon said his neighbor down on Cheviot would like to donate the watchbox to the Town. Tom suggested putting the watchbox at the entrance of Theodore Robinson Park. Town Board agreed to accept the donation. Councilmember Suarez said maybe the watchbox can be used as a kiosk. Supervisor Helsley will talk Tom and Anthony about moving it. Tom asked Corinne what was the next steps on the town accepting a gift? Corinne resolution at the town board meeting. Town Board will discuss further. Tom said Cementon re-development 5 DEC monitored sights.

Councilman Christian heard from DOS, Lisa Vasilakos saying the LWRP draft will be returned within a week with comments.

Motion to enter into executive session at 8:13pm made by Councilman Sullivan, seconded by Councilman Kukon, with all in favor and none opposed.

Motion to exit executive session at 8:54pm made by Councilman Councilman Sullivan, seconded by Councilman Kukon, with all in favor and none opposed.

Motion to adjourn at 8:55pm made by Councilman Sullivan, seconded by Councilman Kukon, with all in favor and none opposed.

Respectfully submitted,