

History Advisory Committee
May 30, 2026

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

- Liberty Pole update: Hank made arrangements with ArchTop to have a telephone pole donated. We will have to coordinate with the Highway Dept. and the Town Board on where to put it. Will also have to paint it and acquire a weather vane and banner to hang off of it during special occasions. The Liberty Pole is inspired by the liberty poles erected by the NYC Sons of Liberty in the years between the French and Indian War and Revolutionary War.
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Liberty_pole
- Revolutionary War Monument update: The bronze plaques have arrived. The monument company is waiting on the granite monument as of May 15th. Will have to coordinate with the Highway Dept. and Town Board on a placement near the Liberty Pole.
- Hover Foundation letter of intent is due on July 1st. We discussed ideas such as a new desktop computer, a book scanner, a batch scanner, and possibly another round of newspaper digitization.
- Hudson River Valley Ramble event. Tom will lead a hiking tour of Germantown starting at the Reformed Church, continuing through Main St., Palatine Park, the 1767 Parsonage, and the Theodore Robinson Community Forest. Saturday, Sept. 26th at 1 PM. Rain date of Sept. 27th at 1 PM. The listing was submitted for publication today.
- Historic Transportation Marker Dedication at Cheviot Park on Sunday, June 14th at 7 PM. We will be joined by WAC and the Park Commission who will demonstrate the water chestnut cutter boat.
- DHPSNY Archival Needs Assessment Grant application deadline is July 10th. Tom will put together an application.
- 4th Graders from Germantown Central School will visit the Parsonage on Monday, June 15th.

- Germantown 250 Logo: Eric Ovalle finished up his design of a logo for us to use during the 250 commemorations. It features an artistic rendering of Old Queensbury, the Catskill Mountains, an apple tree, and a pine tree.
- The African American Archive of Columbia County is setting up a symposium for June 2027 to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the first documented instance of slavery in New Netherland and the 200th anniversary of the abolition of slavery in New York. Vicki asked Tom to serve on the steering committee for this event.
- The New York State History Conference will be held June 11th and 12th at Marist University in Poughkeepsie. Tom will be in attendance.
- The Pomeroy Foundation has one sign grant cycle open now, the brown and white national register site markers. This program has been restricted to publicly-owned National Register sites. It was previously open to privately-owned houses as well. Tom will put together an application for the 1767 Parsonage.
- Flag Day float: Nicky Sacco-Brown and Yvonne have been meeting with Tom to get this project going. We will depict Washington crossing the Delaware. If you want to help put the float together, we will be working on it during the week leading up to the Flag Day parade on June 13th.
- Mowing issue at Valley View Cemetery. The owners of the property did not make arrangements for the cemetery to be mowed as of the Sunday before Memorial Day. Supervisor Helsley mowed it in the rain with his personal mower. The same issue occurred in 2018. Something to keep an eye on. The Methodist Church in Germantown closed in 2010 and Valley View has been administered by a regional Methodist body from that time on.
- A large tree branch fell down in Cheviot Cemetery last night. It fell on the Unson plot and does not appear to have affected any of the 18th or 19th century gravestones. Will assess any damage after the Highway Dept. can cut it up. A large cottonwood branch came down in Cheviot Park as well. (The rest of the tree came down during this meeting).
- Hank raised the issue of the maintenance on the garage at the Parsonage. The gutter and fascia on the east side are in very bad condition.

- Tom will give a lecture on the Revolutionary War as it played out in German Camp and nearby communities. Thursday, July 2nd at 7 PM on Zoom and in person at the Germantown Library.