

Minutes of June 9, 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 May 12, 2026 Town Board meeting minutes made by Councilman Kukon, seconded by Councilmember Suarez, with all in favor and none opposed.

Review of Financial Reports- Comments, Questions. No comments from the Town Board.

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

Written Communications to the Town Clerk

Town Clerk received the History report for May & the Highway report for June.

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 Arch Top 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 1PM. Rain date of Sept. 27th at 1PM. The listing was submitted for publication today.

- Historic Transportation Marker Dedication at Cheviot Park on Sunday, June 14th at 7PM. 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 an 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 the 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 7PM on Zoom and in person at the Germantown Library.

JUNE REPORT

1-CLEANED UP CHEVIOT AFTER THE LARGE POPLAR TREE CAME DOWN

2-CUT DOWN SOME DEAD TREES

3-COMPLETED FIRST PASS OF MOWING ON ROADS STARTING SECOND

4-GOT GROUNDS READY FOR MEMORIAL DAY

5-FINISHED REPAIRS OF CATCH BASINS ON CHEVIOT, JUST NEED TO BLACKTOP AROUND THEM

6-RECEIVED CHIPS FUNDING AM SPEAKING WITH COLARUSSOS TO SCHEDULE PAVING

7-HELPED THE SCHOOL WITH MOWING THEIR GROUND TWICE

8-HAVE BEEN DEALING WITH A LOT OF BEAVER ISSUES

9-BEACH HOUSE BATHROOM IS OPEN; WE ARE HAVING A PROBLEM WITH SOAP BEING STOLEN OUT OF BEACH HOUSE, ACTIVITY BUILDING AND BALLFIELD BATHROOM. I HAVE ORDERED WALL MOUNTED SOAP DISPENSERS TO PUT AN END TO THE THEFT AND WILL NOT BE PUTTING SOAP BOTTLES IN ACTIVITY

10-HAVE BEEN DOING A LOT OF MOWING

11-12 CALL BEFORE YOU DIG

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT
ANTHONY CIDRAS

Old Business

- Zoning and Subdivision Law Update. Summary of changes sent to Matthew with a request for a phone call with the Town Attorney to coordinate drafting these changes and circulating the town's boards. Corinne spoke with Matthew and went over the list of changes. Matthew will make the revisions and will get out to the boards for feedback and flag what Town Board is considering, then make final changes once it comes back. Councilman Christian commented the LWRP needs to follow specific zoning, he would like to see this moving forward.

- Salt Shed Solar array service. New account information has been sent to Hudson Solar- Awaiting final connection to the solar array.

- Hamlet traffic safety. Any updates? School Zone. Town Attorney needs documentation. Councilmember Suarez gave the update of denial to our request on lowering the speed limit on Main Street. Councilmember Suarez said she has noticed on two occasions enhanced patrol in the hamlet. Councilman Kukon had a conversation with the County. They told Councilman Kukon there are other options which are speed humps. Supervisor Helsley will talk with Supervisor Collins from Chatham. Town Board

discussed speed humps. Corinne will need information on the school zone. Supervisor Helsley will get a letter from GCS supporting it.

- Big Towel agreement for Fall 2026- Spring 2027. New agreement drafted. Additional comments? Supervisor Helsley said he has to update the propane usage.

- Parsonage Archaeology Agreement with Hartgen. No response from Bard

- Resolution Approving the Standard Workday for NYSLRS. Tabled until July.

New Business

- LLB of 2026- Repeal of LL3 of 2005. Set date for Public Hearing. Public Hearing was set for Tuesday, July 14, 2026 at 7pm, Town Board meeting immediately following.

- Request for Funds Transfer by Highway Superintendent. Resolution to transfer \$15,000 from DA5142.4 to DA5130.4 due to unforeseen repairs needed on the loader.

Supervisor Helsley read the following Resolution:

TOWN BOARD
TOWN OF GERMANTOWN
COLUMBIA COUNTY, NEW YORK

RESOLUTION AMENDING 2026 BUDGET

Dated: June 9, 2026

WHEREAS, the Germantown Town Board has determined that from time to time budget amendments are necessary to properly reflect the allocation and expenditure of funds.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Germantown Town Board that the 2026 budget is hereby amended and funds transferred as follows:

Reduce DA5142.4- Snow Removal Contract Expenses- \$15,000

Increase DA5130.4- Machinery Contract Expense- \$15,000

Introduced by Councilman Sullivan

Seconded by Councilmember Suarez

The question of 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

Councilman Sullivan asked Supervisor Helsley for the Highway 10-year plan.

Supervisor's Report

- Dual wet down was held on June 6th to celebrate the new apparatus of the Germantown Fire Department.

- Happy Father's Day to all the Father figures- June 21st.

Comments from Councilmembers

Councilman Christian said the dedication for the new transportation sign at Cheviot Park is Sunday night, June 14th at 7pm. Councilman Christian also mentioned the History department with multiple partners got the Pomeroy Foundation to pay for the sign. Councilman Christian read the following graphics of the sign:
By 1851 Hudson River Railroad ran through East Camp Landing hub of commerce and travel renamed Cheviot in 1886 remnants of 1911 visible at low tide.

Councilman Christian said the Pomeroy Foundation has created a letter of support and Tom asked if the Town could do the same.

Comments and Questions from the public

Kerrie Abela suggested using Venmo for Dependence Day Celebration. Corinne thinks the town can establish Venmo account. Corinne will draft a Resolution for the July meeting.

Motion to approve the Town establishing a Venmo account made by Councilman Sullivan, seconded by Councilmember Suarez, with all in favor and none opposed.

Councilmember Suarez asked if the bar could also accept Venmo? Corinne will double check on that.

Angus Mordant asked if the Town could put a trash can on Main Street for dog waste? Supervisor Helsley said he would speak with Anthony about it.

Angus brought up the environmental concerns at 408 Northern Blvd. He said there was a "stop work order" but work continued today. Mr. Mordant took a picture of a white van on the premises.

Mr. Mordant also made a complaint about Dennis Fink Trucking at the meeting and which he had also filed a complaint with Brandon. Angus said the trucks are sitting nearby to his well. Angus said that Brandon has sent letters to Dennis Fink and nothing has changed. Supervisor Helsley said he will follow up with Brandon.

Corinne said the Town has enforcement. The Town Board did not have a recommendation at this time.

Tony Albino said the Board of Assessment Review is losing another member. Les Olsson is moving. Tony said they are down to 3 members- they need 2 more members.

Motion to enter into executive session at 7:40pm to discuss Attorney/Client information and personnel made by Councilmember Suarez, seconded by Councilman Sullivan, with all in favor and none opposed.

Motion to exit executive session at 8:37pm made by Councilmember Suarez, seconded by Councilman Sullivan, with all in favor and none opposed.

Motion to adjourn at 8:38pm made by Councilmember Suarez, seconded by Councilman Kukon, with all in favor and none opposed.

Respectfully submitted,