

Minutes of July 14, 2026, Germantown Town Board meeting, held in the Germantown Town Hall, 50 Palatine Park Road, Germantown, NY and via Zoom, commencing at 7:22pm.

Present: Supervisor Helsley
Councilman Sullivan
Councilman Kukon
Councilman Christian

Town Attorney, Corinne Smith

Recorded by: Town Clerk, Joyce Vale

Supervisor Helsley opened the Town Board meeting.

Motion designating the Town Board as lead agency made by Councilman Sullivan, seconded by Councilman Kukon, with all in favor and none opposed.

Motion determining the action is an Unlisted Action pursuant to SEQRA, authorize the Supervisor to sign Part I of the EAF made by Councilman Sullivan, seconded by Councilman Kukon, with all in favor and none opposed.

Review of SEQRA Part 2. Answering “No” to questions 1-13 on a motion determining the public action will not result in any significant adverse environmental impact made by Councilman Sullivan, seconded by Councilman Kukon, with all in favor and none opposed.

Resolution for Local Law B of 2026 was tabled.

Acknowledgement to Sarah Suarez for her many years of service not only as Town Board member but in her roll on the Parks Commission. Supervisor Helsley thanked and Sarah and wished her best of luck with future endeavors.

Appointment of a Town Councilmember for the remainder of 2026.
Supervisor Helsley asked for nominations.

Councilman Sullivan nominated Brittany DuFresne stating that Brittany served on the Town Board previously and is well qualified.

Councilman Christian nominated Sandra Osborne stating Sandra is in involved in working on grants, is on the Recreation Committee and is involved in town activities.

Town Clerk called roll for voting:
Supervisor Helsley: Brittany DuFresne
Deputy Supervisor Sullivan: Brittany DuFresne
Councilman Christian: Sandra Osborne
Councilman Kukon: Brittany DuFresne

Votes were 3-1 in favor of Brittany DuFresne

Supervisor Helsley read the following Resolution:

TOWN BOARD
TOWN OF GERMANTOWN

COLUMBIA COUNTY, NEW YORK

Dated: July 14, 2026

**RESOLUTION APPOINTING TOWN BOARD MEMBER FOLLOWING
RESIGNATION**

WHEREAS, a vacancy has occurred in the office of Town Board Member due to the resignation of Sarah Suarez effective July 1, 2026; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 64, Subdivision 5 of the New York State Town Law, the Town Board is authorized to appoint a qualified person to fill this vacancy; and

WHEREAS, the person so appointed shall hold office until the commencement of the calendar year next succeeding the first annual election at which the vacancy may be filled;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Germantown does hereby appoint Brittany DuFresne as a member of the Town Board to fill the unexpired term; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that pursuant to Town Law § 64(5), the said appointee shall hold office commencing on July 14, 2026 and terminating December 31, 2026 with the remainder of the vacancy to be filled at the next annual/general election; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the appointee shall duly file their official oath of office and an undertaking as required by law prior to assuming the duties of the position; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Clerk is hereby directed to forward a certified copy of this resolution to the Columbia County Board of Elections and to the New York

State Department of State as required.

On a motion by Deputy Supervisor 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

Town Clerk swore in Brittany DuFresne as Town Board member. Supervisor Helsey welcomed Brittany and asked new Councilmember DuFresne to join the Town Board meeting.

Motion to approve the June 9, 2026 Town Board meeting minutes made by Councilman Kukon, seconded by Councilman Sullivan, with all in favor and none opposed.

Review of Financial Reports- Comments, Questions.

Motion to pay audited bills for July 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 Highway monthly report.

JULY REPORT

1-WENY THROUGH TRAIL AT THE PARSONAGE AND CLEANED IT UP

- 2-GOT HILLTOP HUNTERSTOWN AND ORCHARD READY FOR BLACKTOP
- 3-BLACKTOPPED HUNTERSTOWN, HILLTOP, ORCHARD AND PARKING LOT IN PARK
- 4-GOT PARK READY FOR FORTH OF JULY CELEBRATION AND CLEANED IT UP
- 5-PUT DOCK IN LAKE
- 6-CLEANED UP CHEVIOT PARKING LOT
- 7-DID JUNE WATER SAMPLING
- 8-PUT SCREEN FILL DOWN WHERE NEEDED IN DRIVWAYS OF ROADS THAT WERE BLACKTOPPED
- 9-PUT TOPSOIL DOWN AROUND NEWLY BLACKTOPPED PARKING LOT IN PARK
- 10-INSTALLED LIBERTY POLE FOR HISTORY DEPT HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT

ANTHONY CIDRAS

- Germantown Recreation Committee Park Use Assessment. The Germantown Recreation Committee would like to discuss the possibility of having a page on the Town website, with the ability to program that page themselves. Tatiana Carayannis said the committee interviewed 14 groups that use the parks and sent out a community survey. The committee will finalize their report after the Town Board meeting. Tatiana said they received 177 responses to the survey. Tatiana said the findings from the survey showed the trails were the most used followed by the children's playground, bark park, picnic area, Kellner Activity Building & ball fields. Tatiana said the improvements to the Kellner Activity Building and year round use was praised. Comments on the serious disrepair to the athletic fields with drainage problems, cracked pitcher's mound and the snack bar & bathrooms have had no maintenance in the past decade. Tatiana said that almost 62% of those surveyed would like to have swimming back at Lake George South. Tatiana said that some other requests were a winter ice rink skating on the lake or a rink, kayak or paddle boats on the lake, pickleball courts, lawn games, tennis courts, outdoor gym equipment. Some recommendations were food & art festivals, kids and adult sports leagues & music in the park. Sandra said about 77% said the Palatine Park needed work.

Sandra Osborne would like the Recreation Committee to have it's own budget line. Sandra asked for direct access to the town website for updates, removing the Quanset hut, move ahead with the drainage plan for the ballfields, updating the snack bar & bathrooms at the ballfield, motion cameras on the beach house, order a water quality analysis on the lake, uniform park signage town wide and work with LWRP, WAC & DEC to establish a north shoreline at Lasher Park. Sandra said some ideas/plans for the facilities & grounds are landscaping, replace basketball backboards & hoops, work with DPW to preserve and maintain trails, explore the idea of using goats for invasive species control, update trail maps, use beach house for GRC storage, raise money to purchase kayaks & paddle boats for Lake George. Supervisor Helsley thanked the Recreation committee for their hard work. Supervisor Helsley said come budget time the board will look into budgeting more money for the Recreation committee. Supervisor Helsley will talk to Anthony about the removal of the Quanset hut. Councilman Kukon said the drainage problem at the ballfields will be a bigger project than expected. Councilmember DuFresne would love to be involved with the improvement project at the ballfields. Supervisor Helsley said big congratulations on getting the pickleball grant and he loved the idea of the goats dealing with the invasive species.

- Update of Town Board Committees:

Parks, Recreation and History department, Brittany DuFresne and Kaare Christian.
Communications and Technology, Kaare Christian and Austin Sullivan

Old Business

- Zoning an Subdivision Law Update. Revised zoning law received back from Matthew. Revised use table. Revised full code. List of changes memo with added comments identifying how he addressed each change. (all listed in Version 6). Still outstanding is the revised Historic Resources map, which Matthew indicated his response is forthcoming. Tom Shannon is going to make a list of historical parcel map. Corinne said there is still some feedback needed on certain items. Once that is complete Corinne will circulate to Planning, ZBA, the CEO, LWRP, WAC & Recreation committee. Corinne will send a redline document asking for comments. Asking for a August 11, 2026 deadline.

- Salt Shed Solar array service. Connection has been made to National Grid. Supervisor Helsley and Councilman Christian began the process of Direct Pay- Additional documentation is needed and will be completed in the upcoming weeks. Corinne will get the deeds for proof of ownership.

- School Zone. Table until August. Supervisor Helsey will contact GCS to get the needed information.

- Big Towel Agreement for Fall 2026- Spring 2027. Table until August. Supervisor Helsley is reviewing Utility Usage.

- Parsonage Archaeology Agreement with Hartgen. No response from Bard yet.

- Resolution Approving the Standard Workday for NYSLRS. Tabled.

New Business

Approval of Camp Counselors:

Councilman Sullivan reported there are 100-110 registered in camp.

Camp Counselors are:

Linda Gerlach

Julianna Stagno

Kylie Lester

Madeline Dodge

Carter Owen

Kirsten Petersen

Gretchen Yoli

Amanda Terry

Abigail Lent

Emma Weber

Bryan Bathrick

Brian Gardner

Motion to approve camp counselors for 2026 made by Councilman Sullivan, seconded by Councilman Kukon, with all in favor and none opposed.

- Approval of Lasher Park Kayak Sign. Councilman Christian said Roe Jan Boat Club filled 3 kayak racks last Sunday and we plan to build only one. Councilmember DuFresne suggested a log book write in name, slot number with dates.

- Pickleball Grant has been approved. More to follow. Corinne said it will need to go out to bid. Tom asked if the archeology study had been done on the site? Sandra said she had a quote. Supervisor Helsley asked what the quote amount was? Councilman Christian said the quote wasn't that expensive, they also needed a full park survey. Councilman Christian said now that we have the grant we should attempt to clean this up so that Town Hall is not a part of Palatine Park. Corinne suggested a lot line adjustment where Town Hall is not park use. Discussion on parcels. Changes will start with Brandon. Councilman Christian will bring the map to Brandon. Corinne has all the deeds and will review them.

- Motion to appoint Sandra Osborne to the LWRP committee made by Councilman Christian, seconded by Councilman Kukon, with all in favor and none opposed.

- Motion to surplus 2012 F250 and 2004 Ford Ambulance made by Councilman Sullivan, seconded by Councilman Kukon, with all in favor and none opposed.

- Councilman Christian asked if we could go back to the discussion on Lasher Park. They met and talked about the erosion. DEC recommended doing a conceptual design. Councilman Christian spoke to Jen Crawford about this. It's only 50-60 yards of shoreline not a big project. Councilman Christian said we need a vendor who can do this project get it underway. Jen Crawford suggested a company Dirt Works who has a couple of representatives in Hudson. Councilman Christian said there is a quote from Dirt Works for \$17,500. Councilman Christian will look into grants.

Supervisor's Report

- The Independence Day event was WET. About 1/3 of the normal attendance. Loss of about \$15 - 18K. The fireworks were amazing. Santore's has been booked for July 3, 2027 with a rain date of July 10, 2027.

Comments from Councilmembers

No comments.

Comments and Questions from the public

Abe Feldmus - owns 221 Main Street. Abe said he is adding three new stores to the east side of Main Street. Abe is wondering if street lamps could be added to the corner of Main and Church Ave. Abe also mentioned there is a street pole in front of Matt DiGuiseppe's and wondering if the town can add some additional outdoor lighting. Councilmember DuFresne added the lighting district is supposed to extend past Hover Avenue almost to her house, it has been a complaint of hers for many years.

Tony Albino said that we need to contact Bard in regards to the Archaeology collection. Supervisor Helsley said it is on his list.

Motion to enter into executive session to discuss personnel made by Councilman Kukon, seconded by Councilmember DuFresne, with all in favor and none opposed.

Motion to exit executive at 9:10pm session made by Councilman Sullivan, seconded by Councilman Kukon, with all in favor and none opposed.

Motion to adjourn at 9:11pm made by Councilman Kukon, seconded by Councilman Sullivan, with all in favor and none opposed.

Respectfully submitted,