

**EDUCATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
AGENDA
MONDAY, JULY 15, 2019
4:00 P.M.**

EDUCATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Paul Ruskiewicz, Chair
Rob Sassi, James D. O'Donnell, Barry J. Cheney, Laurie R. Tautel, Joel Sierra, Joseph J. Minuta, Kathy Stegenga

*****REVISED*****

****ALL LEGISLATORS ARE INVITED TO ATTEND****

I. JOHANNA PORR, COUNTY HISTORIAN

DISCUSSION: Planning for the commemoration of the Semiquincentennial of the War of Independence

II. BILL FIORAVANTI, DIRECTOR, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

MONTHLY UPDATE

III. MAUREEN HALAHAN, PRESIDENT, CEO, ORANGE COUNTY PARTNERSHIP

QUARTERLY UPDATE

IV. ~~VINNIE-COZZOLINO, MANAGING-DIRECTOR, INDUSTRIAL-DEVELOPMENT-AGENCY~~

MARY ELLEN ROGULSKI, CHAIR, INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

DISCUSSION: IDA and Heritage Trail

**V. DR. KRISTINE YOUNG, PRESIDENT, ORANGE COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
FRED WATSON, CHAIR, SUNY ORANGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

PRESENTATION: OCCC BUDGET

I.

Orange County Semiquincentennial

To Commemorate the 250th Anniversary of the War for Independence
Throughout the Eight Years of the Conflict

1775/2025-1783/2033

In keeping with the tradition of celebrating milestone anniversaries of the founding of our nation, U.S. Congress passed H.R. 4875 in 2016, creating the "United States Semiquincentennial Commission" to plan an observance and commemoration of the July 4, 1776 Declaration of Independence.

In expansion of the United States Semiquincentennial Act of 2016, the citizens of Orange County acknowledge that the land within our present borders and that of Orange County "South of the Mountains," named Rockland County in 1798, was contested for the entirety of the armed conflict with Great Britain from 1775-1783. During that time of turmoil, residents joined the ranks of the army and militia, and forfeited their lands, their crops, and their livestock to the war effort and to quartered soldiers.

Throughout all eight years of war, residents of Orange County were at the center of military campaigns designed to control the Hudson River corridor and protect the borderlands along the Delaware River. As supplies moved through the crossroads of The Clove, from Suffern to Mountainville and across the Kings Ferry, between Stony Point and Verplanck's, or along the ferry from Newburgh to Fishkill Landing and supply depot, a communication network developed which proved to be a vital link between New England and the colonies to the south.

Whereas in 1775 the residents of Orange County formed Committees of Safety and recruited men to volunteer for the Orange and Ulster County militias, and Colonel Daniel Morgan's rifleman marched through New Windsor to join General George Washington's army in Boston, which spurred local enlistments,

Whereas in 1776 word spread from Philadelphia that the Continental Congress voted in favor of independence, publishing a formal declaration that framed their grievances against the King in moral terms, setting in motion an Age of Revolution that would inspire the resistance of political and economic enslavement on a global scale, and although it led to freedom for many residents of Orange County, it fell short of extending rights to thousands of enslaved African-Americans, who contributed to the cause as combatants and laborers, therefore we lament that much of their valor and service went unrecognized as their dreams of freedom were so often delayed or denied,

Whereas in 1777 local militiamen under the command of General George Clinton and his brother James Clinton were decimated in defense of Fort Montgomery and Fort Clinton, many sacrificing their lives to delay the British forces from total victory in their assault on the communities of New York State and their attack of the State Capitol of Kingston during the Saratoga Campaign,

Whereas in 1778 Claudius Smith's gang of Tory marauders sheltered in the Ramapo Mountains near Tuxedo, disrupting the Patriot army's supply lines until Smith's apprehension and execution at the Goshen Courthouse, and the garrisons at West Point and Constitution Island were occupied by the Patriot army to defend New York State from further attack through the Hudson River corridor, and the Great Chain was forged at Sterling Iron Works in Warwick,

Whereas in 1779 Orange County experienced multiple military engagements such as the Battle of Stony Point, a victory for the Continental Army, while revolutionaries faced threats from Loyalists and British-allied American Indians with the invasion of the Delaware Valley by Mohawk war chief Thayendanegea known as Joseph Brant, and Tory raiders wreaked havoc in interior and western Orange County, including an attack on Fort Decker, leading to the defeat of Patriot forces at the Battle of Minisink and the retaliatory Sullivan Campaign,

Whereas in 1780 the garrison at West Point was weakened and promised to the British in an act of treason by General Benedict Arnold who tried to exchange "the most important post in America" for money and a high position in the British Army, but Arnold's betrayal was discovered and he escaped down the Hudson River on the HMS Vulture, then his British liaison Major John Andre was captured and brought to Tappan where he was imprisoned and hanged,

Whereas in 1781 General George Washington combined forces with French General Jean-Baptiste Donatien de Vimeur, comte de Rochambeau, to plan a joint attack, maneuvering to feign an attack on New York City before crossing at Kings Ferry and marching through Orange County "South of the Mountains" on their way to Yorktown, Virginia, where they defeated General Charles

Cornwallis in what would prove to be the last major battle of the conflict to take place on United States soil,

Whereas in 1782 soldiers were selected to receive the Badge of Military Merit forerunner of the Purple Heart for courageous action during the war, while the Continental Army was camped at its final winter cantonment in New Windsor as they awaited the outcome of peace negotiations in Europe, and here officers grew concerned that Congress would fail to meet its promised financial obligations to the army,

Whereas in 1783 while headquartered at the Hasbrouck House in Newburgh, General George Washington faced uncertainty about how to transition to a peacetime government, he traveled to the DeWint House in Tappan to negotiate terms with British Commander Sir Guy Carleton, he appeared at a mutinous meeting of his officers where he put an end to the Newburgh Conspiracy, he distributed a Circular Letter to the governors of the 13 colonies, and he issued the General Order for the cessation of hostilities, thus ending the conflict,

Therefore, Orange County plans to commemorate the 250th Anniversary of the War for Independence throughout the Eight Years of the Conflict, an Orange County Semiquincentennial Commission, chaired by the Orange County Historian, will develop and coordinate the efforts of regional stakeholders in celebration of the upcoming 250th anniversary of the American Revolution.

Respectfully Submitted,

Johanna Yaun, Orange County Historian

July 2019