

Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin

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Oneida, Wi 54155



UGWA DEMOLUM YATEHE
Because of the help of
this Oneida Chief in
cementing a friendship
between the six nations
and the colony of
Pennsylvania, a new
nation, the United States
was made possible.

Oneidas bringing several hundred bags of corn to Washington's starving army at Valley Forge, after the colonists had consistently refused to aid them.

**SPECIAL BUSINESS COMMITTEE MEETING
FEBRUARY 20, 1997
NORBERT HILL CENTER
RE: LAND CLAIMS LITIGATION REQUEST
10:40 A.M.**

Present: Deborah Doxtator - Chair, Gary Jordan - Vice Chair, Kathy Hughes - Treasurer, Julie Barton - Secretary, Shirley Hill, Sandra Ninham, Leland Danforth - Council Members

Excused: Ernie Stevens, Jr., Cristina Danforth - Council Members

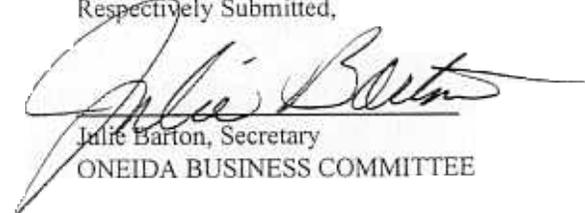
Called to Order by Deborah Doxtator at: 10:40 a.m.

Discussion:

Bill Gollnick: After much deliberation, it is clear that we must pursue a different course. Our good will and the consistent position that we have taken to attempt to get the State of New York to negotiate in good faith, to recognize that we came to the process with the interest of finding win-win strategies for the state, the residents of the claim area, and the three Oneida governments have been consistently dismissed by Ms. Hard and the State's negotiators. She has claimed that they could conduct a settlement with the New York Oneidas and give us a take-it-or-leave-it offer once they were done. The states' representatives promised us that we would receive a letter that we could share with our General Tribal Council that would clarify New York's position. We even postponed a meeting to accommodate them when they did not meet their promised date. Their innocuous letter after the fact compounded with their spin that they stopped negotiation with us because we bought land were outrageous. In not one conversation that I can recall have they been honest with us. If we allow them to try to convince us again that we ought not take action-- now that they have obviously failed with the New York Oneida -- we are being foolish. The old adage says, "Fool me once, shame on you. Fool me twice, shame on me." In our effort to show the state that something positive for all of us could come from this process, we have allowed ourselves to be fooled more than twice. We cannot do this again. After 12 years of so-called negotiations, perhaps, if New York State sees our resolve to get this claim settled, there will be some action and honest words.

MOTION BY KATHY HUGHES TO APPROVE THE AUTHORIZATION FOR ARLINDA LOCKLEAR TO NOTIFY NEW YORK STATE THAT WE ARE NOT INTERESTED IN PURSUING NEGOTIATIONS AND TO PROCEED WITH LITIGATION, SECONDED BY SHIRLEY HILL. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectively Submitted,


Julie Barton, Secretary
ONEIDA BUSINESS COMMITTEE