

Seneca Nation of Indians

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Clerk - Bethany Johnson

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AT THE REGULAR SESSION OF COUNCIL OF THE
SENECA NATION OF INDIANS HELD ON
SEPTEMBER 16, 2023, AT THE SENECA
ALLEGANY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING ON
THE ALLEGANY TERRITORY, SALAMANCA, NEW
YORK, 14779.

CN: R-09-16-23-10

EXECUTIVES PRESENT:

PRESIDENT - RICKEY L. ARMSTRONG, SR.
CLERK - BETHANY JOHNSON

TO ESTABLISH A 1365 RESETTLEMENT COMMITTEE

MOTION: by Odie Porter, seconded by Al E. George, that the Seneca Nation Council approves the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Seneca Nation of Indians is a sovereign nation established pursuant to its Constitution of 1848, as amended, and recognized by the United States pursuant to the Canandaigua Treaty of 1794; and

WHEREAS, the Canandaigua Treaty establishes perpetual "peace and friendship" between the Nation and the United States and recognizes and affirms the Nation's "free use and enjoyment" of its lands; and

WHEREAS, in 1965, the United States violated the terms of the Canandaigua Treaty when it forced a water flowage easement for the use of 10,000 acres of the Nation's Allegany territory for the Kinzua Dam reservoir; and

WHEREAS, a significant consequence of this action was the destruction of numerous Seneca settlements along the Ohi:yo (Allegany River) and the forced relocation of Seneca people living along the Ohi:yo to higher ground, the destruction of their homes, and the loss of use of all Nation lands below the 1365' elevation (e.g. the "Take Area"); and

WHEREAS, Seneca people with family lands in the Take Area are interested in re-settling and utilizing their ancestral lands; and

WHEREAS, the Council finds that the forced loss of use of all Nation lands below the 1365' elevation is excessive and unnecessarily deprives the Nation and the Seneca people of the use of thousands of acres of the Allegany Territory; and

WHEREAS, the Council further finds that the need now arises to develop and implement a comprehensive plan for the reclamation and use of significant acreage within the Take Area.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Council hereby establishes a 1365 Resettlement Committee to be comprised of both Nation officials and Seneca Citizens for the following purposes:

1. To identify livable lands in the Take Area and develop a comprehensive plan for their resettlement, including addressing public safety concerns, environmental issues and infrastructure needs;
2. To engage in discussions with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, other relevant federal executive agencies including the White House, and Members of Congress, to secure restoration and use of lands within the Take Area; and
3. Such other related matters to allow for the restoration and usage of Take Area lands for the benefit of the Nation and the Seneca people.

RESOLVED, that the Nation executives, all Nation departments, and contract professionals shall provide such assistance as may be requested by the Committee in support of its work; and

RESOLVED, that the Clerk shall provide notice to all enrolled Senecas by October 1, 2023 on the Nation's website and through the Nation's newsletter to invite any enrolled Seneca to submit a letter or email by October 31, 2023 expressing their interest in participating in the 1365 Resettlement Committee; and

RESOLVED, that the Council intends to appoint such members of the 1365 Resettlement Committee as may be necessary at the Regular Session of Council November 2023, provided, that meetings of the Committee shall be open to the Seneca public to ensure transparency and maximum public engagement.

ALL IN FAVOR

MOTION CARRIED

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify the foregoing extract is a true and correct copy from the minutes of the Regular Session of Council of the Seneca Nation of Indians held on September 16, 2023, on the Allegany Territory, original of which is on file in the Clerk's Office of the Seneca Nation of Indians.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my name and caused the seal to be affixed at the Seneca Allegany Administration Building, on the Allegany Territory, on the 18th day of September 2023.

ATTEST:



BETHANY JOHNSON, CLERK
SENECA NATION OF INDIANS

{ SEAL }