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TOWN OF YORKTOWN
363 Underhill Avenue, P.O. Box 703
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This is a resolution adopted by the Town Board of the Town of Yorktown at its regular meeting held on Tuesday, February 18, 2020.

Whereas, the United States Congress has established the United States Semiquincentennial Act of 2016, Public Law 114-196, finding that July 4, 2026, the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States, as marked by the Declaration of Independence in 1776, and the historic events preceding that anniversary are 1) of major significance in the development of the national heritage of the United States of individual liberty, representative government, and the attainment of equal and inalienable rights, and 2) have had a profound influence throughout the world; and

Whereas, the purpose of this Act is to establish a Commission to provide for the observance and commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States and related events through local, State, national and international activities planned, encouraged, developed and coordinated by a national commission representative of appropriate public and private authorities and organizations; and

Whereas, the Office of the New York State Historian, is supportive of the observance and commemoration of the 250th anniversary, has held regional meetings across the State, and is establishing a revolutionary NY250 website which will act as a place for information exchange, to upload Revolutionary NY250 events and appoint a New York State Historian's Revolutionary NY250 Advisory Group; and

Whereas, the County of Westchester, including the Department of Tourism and the Office of the County Executive, is working in coordination and in support of Revolutionary Westchester 250 Inc. to help build awareness and excitement for the events, places, ideals and people—both unsung and famous—of the Revolutionary War period in Westchester County; and

Whereas, the Westchester County Historical Society is supportive of the work of Revolutionary Westchester 250 and the State, regional and federal initiatives to commemorate the 250th anniversary, and;

Whereas, the Town of Yorktown would like to establish a local organization, called the Yorktown 250 Committee, to commemorate our local history in conjunction with the history of the U.S., New York State and Westchester County; and work in coordination with the federal, State, regional and county initiatives; and

Whereas, the Yorktown 250 Committee should be comprised of local civic, business and private organizations, educational institutions, and community members, and collaborate with these and other local and regional resources, to formulate an overall master plan, as well as programs and events, and key milestones, including but not limited to the creation and publication of historical documents, marketing collateral materials, programming on the Town TV channel, parades,

commemorative events, and reenactments of major battles, road signage and informational historic markers and panels, creation of mobile self-directed tours of historic sites, projects that reflect the diversity of our citizenry, web-based or mobile applications and interactive games creating educational and recreational experiences for families, relevant history courses and/or programs integrated into the local school curriculums; and

Whereas, the Yorktown 250 Committee would benefit from being formulated as a subcommittee of the Yorktown Landmarks Preservation Commission, and provide regular status reports to the Town Board; and

Whereas, the people and places of what is now our Town of Yorktown were integral to the victorious resolution of our war for independence; and events and individuals such as the Battle of Pines Bridge, and the bravery and sacrifice of Colonel Greene and Major Flagg, the activities of Rochambeau's troops, and the courage of the patriots at the First Presbyterian Church, should be remembered and commemorated as part of the 250th anniversary of the momentous occasion of the founding of the United States and related events on this momentous occasion; and

Whereas, heritage is all the things that make up our story, tangible and intangible, and as we value them, we must protect them;

Now, Therefore Be It Resolved, that the Town of Yorktown creates the Yorktown 250 Committee as a subcommittee of the Yorktown Landmark Preservation Commission, to commemorate the 250th anniversary of our Nation in conjunction with State, regional, county and local Initiatives;

Be It Further Resolved, that members of the Yorktown 250 Committee shall be appointed by and serve at the discretion of the Town Board; and

Be It Further Resolved, that the Town Board shall select the Committee's Chairperson; and

Be It Further Resolved, that all Committee meetings will be open to the public, the public will be permitted to participate in the Committee's discussions, and the Committee's meeting dates are to be posted on the Town's website; and

Be It Further Resolved, that detailed minutes will be prepared of all Committee meetings; and

Be It Further Resolved, that the Committee shall submit a report, on or before the 31st day of January, setting forth for the prior calendar year: (1) the dates the Committee met, (2) all votes taken by the Committee, (3) all memoranda prepared by the Committee and submitted to the Town Board, (4) all activities undertaken by the Committee, and (5) all minutes of the Committee's meetings.


Diana L. Quast, Town Clerk
Certified Municipal Clerk

Date: February 19, 2020

To: Lynn Briggs, Chairperson – Landmarks Preservation Commission

cc: Matthew J. Slater, Town Supervisor
Patricia Caporale, Town Comptroller
Adam Rodriguez, Interim Town Attorney
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