

Special Meeting
Selectboard Minutes
6/18/2021

Members Present by Zoom: Bard Hill, June Heston
Members In-Person: Christine Werneke, David Sander
Absent: Cody Quattrocci

Others Present In- Person: Josh Arneson, Town Manager; the meeting was recorded by MMCTV; Patty Brushette, Brian Werneke, Jeff Forward, Emily Mitchell
Others Present by Zoom: Kathy Daub-Stearns, Admin.; Jana Brown, Jay Furr, Eveline Killian, Denise Noble

Welcome and Public Comment

Called to Order: 5:00 PM

Welcome by Christine

Public Comment: none

I. Additions or Deletions to Agenda -none

II. Items for Presentation or Discussion with those present

a) Consideration of amending the Resolution in Support of Displaying a Black Lives Matter Flag and Sign

Christine reported:

- that Juneteenth is now a federally recognized holiday.
- that last year the Selectboard made a Resolution that acknowledged the date and the importance of the history behind the holiday
- that the Resolution was specific to 2020.
- that this amendment would allow the flag and sign to be displayed for three (3) months every year in celebration of Juneteenth.

Christine then read the proposed amendment:

“WHEREAS, on June 22, 2020, the Richmond Selectboard adopted a Resolution in Support of displaying a ‘Black Lives Matter’ flag and a ‘Black Lives Matter’ sign for a period of three months, to begin by June 19, 2020;

WHEREAS, the Selectboard now intends to amend this resolution to include additional timeframes for displaying the ‘Black Lives Matter’ flag and a ‘Black Lives Matter’ sign to show continued support for Black Lives Matter movement

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Richmond shall support the Black Lives Matter movement by displaying a ‘Black Lives Matter’ flag and a ‘Black Lives Matter’ sign for a period of three months each year, to begin each June 19, a date also known as ‘Juneteenth’.”

Discussion included:

- that Jeff Forward thanked the Selectboard for the original Resolution and said for the Selectboard to recognize the error from the previous year that prevented the flag and sign from being displayed after 2020, and correcting it on a Friday night, was something he was thankful, and appreciative of.

Christine read the poem by "Free at Last" by Sojourner Kincaid Rolie to commemorate Juneteenth. The poem is attached to the minutes.

David moved to approve the amendment to the Resolution in Support of Displaying a Black Lives Matter Flag and Sign as read; Bard seconded. Roll call vote: Bard seconded. Roll Call Vote: David, Bard, June, and Christine voted affirmatively. Motion passed.

Discussion continued:

- that Christine said Cody was not able to cast a vote but sent his support of the amendment
- that David was glad the 1st back in-person meeting after the long absence was positive, united, and just great. Christine agreed.

III. Adjourn

David moved to adjourn; Bard seconded. Roll call vote: David, June, Bard and Christine voted affirmatively. Motion passed.

The meeting ended 5:15 PM

CHAT:

00:38:38 Jana Brown: Thank you Richmond Selectboard Members!
00:38:53 eveline killian: yes, thank you!! very proud
00:42:51 Denise Noble (she/her): thank you all!!!

Free At Last - Juneteenth Poem. (Revised)

General Granger brought the news to
Galveston: "The war is over! "
President Lincoln signed a decree;
The Emancipation Proclamation
declares, "All who live in bondage here
shall from now until be free."
After 300 years of forced labor;
hands bound, descendants of Africa
picked up their souls - all that they
owned - leaving shackles where they fell

on the ground, headed for the nearest
resting place to be found.
Some went no further than the shack
out back; oft only a lean-to shed -
hard ground for a bed; hard labor, no
pay, but the will to survive.
'though they couldn't call it their own,
They still declared, "this is my home."
Some went to the nearest place of the
Lord; to some hollow place in the

brush or to a clearing in a grove
where folk gathered 'neath a still standing
tree and sang, "Thank you
Jesus, for delivering me."
Some ran as far as they could go
into the service of the man
on the neighboring land
Working for a pittance
and a little plot of space
much like they did as a slave.

Some made a beeline for nearest saloon
singing a song, picking a tune;
toasting the Union and Lady Luck,
settin' da flo, dancing the jig and the buck;
patting themselves on their whip-scarred backs;
carousing from night into day.
Some went the way of the river,
following the Rio Grande
or swimming the up-flowing Mississip.
Hastening to get as far as they could -

thrusting their futures into sanctuary and
friendless unknown territory.
Some kept running like a stone on a
hill - never to grasp a firm place to rest.
Some even went to the promised land;
Wherever they went alone or abreast

Sojourner Kincaid Rolle