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Date: April 8, 2023 at 12:11:07 AM EDT

To: washgrove <washgrove@comcast.net>

Subject: comment on the RASEC resolution

To Town Council Members and the Mayor:

I am writing in support of Christine Dibble's redrafted resolution in her letter to her fellow council members and the mayor, dated April 1, 2023.

Her analysis led her to clarify and improve the original draft resolution, while retaining its strong condemnation of racism.

There is a question about whether or not the Town should apologize on behalf of the Washington Grove Camp Meeting Association. The WGCMA was incorporated by act of the state legislature as an association, whose officers and stockholders, not the Methodist Church, were responsible for its policies and practices. The Town is its successor and treasures those roots. It can and should apologize for the racist aspects of that part of our history.

I agree with Christine's position that footnotes to sources do not belong in resolutions. The Town archive should preserve the documentation considered by the council in making its decision.

Passing a resolution acknowledging Washington Grove's racist past, apologizing for the suffering it caused, and making vows about justice, equity, inclusion, and diversity will only begin the work, long overdue. Undertaking that work is going to require all of us. I believe Christine's redraft could unite residents in support.

Respectfully submitted,
Mimi Bolotin