



Letters to the Editor

Demonstrations were historic event

Robert Lyons, Kennebunk

The sight of 150 citizens lying down on the street for nearly nine minutes in front of Kennebunk Town Hall last Wednesday – and approximately 400 for the Friday evening demonstration – as traffic was stopped by officials while names were read of men and women of color who have died at the hands of police was an historic event.

That the citizens were joined by Kennebunk Police Chief Robert MacKenzie, Select Board Chair Blake Baldwin and Town Manager Michael Pardue along with Kennebunkport Police Chief Craig Sanford and Town Manager Laurie Smith gives immutable witness to the struggle of Americans who have outlived the failure of all their hopes – and yet still hope for justice and equality.

Chief MacKenzie said: “The members of the Kennebunk Police Department are committed to working with all citizens of our community in the delivery of police services, raising the quality of life for all.” Town manager Pardue affirmed: “We will never let you down.”

Select Board Chairman Baldwin spoke of one of the first principles articulated in the Declaration of Independence, that of equality for the citizens.

Rachel Flint McGlashan, organizer of this Stand in Solidarity Against Racism demonstrations summed it up: “People across the country are standing up, saying it has to stop. No more, it has to stop.”

Eduardo Galeano, Uruguayan journalist wrote of these human struggles for justice and equality: “No history is mute. No matter how much they burn it, break it, and lie about it, human history refuses to shut its mouth. Despite deafness and ignorance, the time that was continues to tick inside the time that is. Memory is in the air we breathe, and from the air it breathes us.”

The next demonstration by citizens should be to vote in the July primary and the national election Tuesday, Nov. 3. Kennebunk’s user friendly town clerk, Merton Brown, has made it very easy to vote simply by submitting a request for ballots to be mailed to registered voters.

The positive energy generated in Kennebunk and across the nation this week gives some hope.

*“Though we live in a world that dreams of ending
that always seems about to give in
something that will not acknowledge conclusion
insists that we forever begin.”*

-Irish poet, Brendan Kennelly in his poem “Begin”



Demonstrations against racism in Kennebunk on June 3 and June 5 drew about 500 people, including nearly 400 (above) for the Friday, June 5 protest. *Dan King photo*