

Town of Keene  
Anti-Discrimination Resolution:

Whereas the recent appearance of the abhorrent and disturbing racist graffiti in the neighboring communities is a display of undeniable hatred and intolerance;

Whereas we honor the lessons provided by two recent graduates of Keene Central School (2018), both of whom are students of color, who bravely shared painful personal experiences of growing up in a predominately White community. Stories shared with grace and love for the community that helped raise them in an effort to instruct not chastise and to remind us that we can do better;

Whereas the old Mountain Road in Keene was used by renowned abolitionist John Brown who devoted his life to fighting against slavery;

Whereas the Lake Placid Region was home to Timbuctoo, a farming community created by abolitionist Gerrit Smith to help provide land ownership and therefore voting rights to Black New Yorkers;

Whereas the Town of Keene supports the mission of the Adirondack Diversity Initiative and its efforts to educate our local communities in issues of racial equity and transformational justice in order to make the Adirondacks a more welcoming place;

Whereas the Town of Keene, the Home of the High Peaks, recognizes its history of striving to be a welcoming community for both year-round and seasonal residents and a long tradition of hosting national and international tourists to enjoy the spectacular vistas and recreational amenities of this beautiful place we call home;

*Be it resolved that, the Town of Keene,*

- 1.) will not tolerate any form of racism and condemns all acts of discrimination and hatred that threaten or humiliate any person living in or visiting our community based on race, religion, national origin, sexual orientation or disability;*
- 2.) will actively and swiftly confront and respond to (without delay) any acts of racism and prejudice in our community to ensure that Keene is a safe, comfortable and desirable place to live and visit for all people at all times;*
- 3.) will commit to having a minimum of one Town Board member participate in Dialogue Facility Training offered by the Adirondack Diversity Initiative;*
- 4.) will create a Diversity and Inclusion Committee to produce rapid response procedures to acts of discrimination and review of current and future Town of Keene policy to ensure an equitable and inclusive position.*