



Town of Bristol
Town Administrator
1 South Street
P.O. Box 249
Bristol, VT 05443
(802) 453-2410 ext. 22
townadmin@bristolvt.org
www.bristolvt.org

June 17, 2020

Isabella Lucarelli
25 Pleasant Street
Bristol, VT 05443
Via E-mail: imluca18@stlawu.edu

Althea Kane
1638 Drake Woods Road
Bristol, VT 05443
Via E-mail: Althea.k11@gmail.com

Re: Park Use Permit for Black Lives Matter Vigil

Dear Isabella and Althea,

At its meeting on Monday, June 8, the Bristol Selectboard approved your application to use the Town Green for a Black Lives Matter vigil the next day, June 9, from 3:00pm to 4:00pm, with provisions to ensure that appropriate safety protocols would be followed. That the event coincided with a worldwide COVID-19 pandemic certainly complicated things.

The application indicated an estimated attendance of 25 people in accordance with the Governor's order; however, the Selectboard understood that the number of attendees would be difficult to control, and that the location being an outdoor venue provided adequate space to encourage and maintain physical distancing. The Selectboard also acknowledged the time-sensitivity of the event, appreciated your efforts to comply with the process, and supported the assembly.

The use of Main Street for a march was not allowed, in part because of the construction, and Police Chief Nason specifically expressed concern about blocking sidewalks and streets. Use of the sidewalk around the park was suggested as an alternative. Instead, marchers proceeded up North Street, crossed at Spring Street, continued southward on North Street, and crossed again at the intersection. Police assistance was required, without prior arrangement, to redirect motorists.

The use of chalk on the public sidewalk was approved with the condition that there be no profanity and that if any was found, that it would be removed at the conclusion of the event before you left. A message with profane intent, however, was found on the sidewalk the following day.



Isabella Lucarelli and Althea Kane

June 17, 2020

Page 2 of 2

In case it has not already been provided to you or found on Bristol's Web site, enclosed/attached is a copy of the Public Displays and Public Assemblages Ordinance adopted in 2017.

Events that have the potential—or likelihood—to draw large numbers of participants, particularly at this time of heightened public health concerns, illustrate why the ordinance was adopted and permits are required. It is not intended to stifle or inhibit public expression or events, but to ensure adequate measures are in place—and followed—so they can occur without compromising public health, safety, and well-being.

If future events are planned by yourselves or others, we will appreciate your cooperation and your assistance to help other organizers be aware that this ordinance is in place.

Do not hesitate to contact me at 453-2410 or townadmin@bristolvt.org if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Valerie Capels
Town Administrator

Enc.

C: Selectboard
 Bruce Nason, Police Chief
 Meridith McFarland, Recreation Director