RESOLUTION WELCOMING PEOPLE OF EVERY RACE, RELIGION, NATIONALITY, GENDER, ETHNICITY OR SEXUAL ORIENTATION INTO OUR COMMUNITY

WHEREAS, the United States of America has long stood as a haven for immigrants persecuted in other lands seeking liberty and the right to practice religion as they choose;

WHEREAS, foreign-born residents richly contribute to the quality of life in Cape Elizabeth, as do people of many faiths;

WHEREAS, Cape Elizabeth supports respectful listening and dialogue across social and political divides, and rejects actions that stifle even unpopular points of view;

WHEREAS, we elected representatives of Cape Elizabeth have a leadership responsibility to speak out against discrimination, intolerance, violence or hate;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, that the town of Cape Elizabeth:

1. Condemns actions of hate, violence or discrimination directed toward immigrants, refugees, asylum seekers or any persons targeted for their religion, ethnicity, race, nationality, gender, immigration status or sexual orientation;

2.  Welcomes residents of all cultures and faiths, celebrates the benefits of a pluralistic society, and defends the inalienable right of every person to live and practice their identity, culture and faith without fear;

3. Affirms that anyone targeted on the basis of nationality, religion, race, ethnicity, gender, immigration status or sexual orientation should be able to turn to the town’s officials for protection without fear of retribution;

4. Encourages forums where civil and respectful dialogue may take place to promote better understanding.