

Barre City Police Advisory Committee Minutes

June 10, 2026

6:00 pm

Public Safety Building

1. Call to order.
 - a. Committee members in attendance: Chief Vail, Councilor Gustin, Chair Stephen England, Poa Mutino, Alex Pastor
2. Consider approval or adjustments of the agenda
 - a. Added items 8a and 9a &b at request of Poa Mutino
 - b. Alex Pastor moved, Poa Mutino seconded, passed unanimously
3. Consider approval of previous meeting minutes
 - a. Poa Mutino moved and Alex Pastor seconded, passed unanimously
4. Receive guests
5. Councilor Gustin's report
 - a. Housing & Homelessness Coordinator report heard at Council; that position's impact on public safety was in leading the Situation Table, hosting warming and overnight shelters
 - b. City Manager Search Committee work has begun, and will work through the summer to find the next manager
 - c. Acceptance of report moved by Poa Mutino, seconded by Alex Pastor, passed unanimously
6. Chief Vail's report
 - a. Two officers have recently completed the academy and will be able to complete patrols on their own going forward
 - b. Day shift corporal is being reassigned to the detective division with the new flexibility in staff, and third shift corporal is moving to days
 - c. Another candidate started the level 2 academy and will be done at the end of June
 - d. Both community service officers have been hired and begun their work; the Vermont Bike Shop donated two bikes for them to use in their patrols
 - e. Acceptance of the report moved by Alex Pastor, seconded by Poa Mutino, passed unanimously
7. Discuss and consider approving 421 Foot Pursuit Policy
 - a. Members reviewed the policy section by section. Chief Vail explained that the provisions in the policy are based on national best practices. Committee members remarked on the thoroughness and clarity of the policy.

- b. Acceptance of the new policy moved by Alex Pastor, seconded by Poa Mutino, passed unanimously
- 8. Discussion of next steps for PAC
 - a. Idea for future direction of the committee
 - i. Poa Mutino suggested that a future of the committee might mean that committee members use their connections within the community and help spot challenges in communications or relations that would benefit the work of the Barre City Police
 - ii. Chair England shared that the work in the recent past has focused on a great deal of policy review and that the time is right to consider future work. He also mentioned the previous work of the Jaycees in organizing events like a bike rodeo at the Auditorium that connect the public with the police officers.
 - iii. The Chief spoke of a citizen police academy that he has hosted in the past, and they have often started very successfully but sometimes have trouble finding more than a few cohorts. He described a six to eight week program with weekly meetings to learn about various topics.
 - iv. Alex Pastor suggested there be ways to continue involvement and connection with the BCPD even after shorter events or programs so that people can feel an ongoing sense of trust and connection
 - v. Poa Mutino spoke of community work around bullying, inspired by the loss of a recent Barre City student; the Chief spoke of previous work he has done in this line, and other committee members spoke of their own experiences.
 - vi. The Chief shared that he is currently working on an AI policy after a recent training opportunity about the use of AI in police work.
 - vii. National Night Out will be the first Tuesday in August in Currier Park, and an opportunity for action. Chair England suggested that PAC members attend and be available for conversation, possibly with a handout, and the committee discussed a small version of a bike rodeo. The committee can apply for funding for helmets and other safety equipment, and discussed approaching local fraternal organizations like the Rotary, Lions, American Legion, Elks, Mutuo, etc.
 - 1. The committee devoted some time to planning what this might look like. Chair England will write a letter for funding; Chief Vail will look into wholesale purchase of safety equipment, Alex

Pastor will talk to the Vermont Bike Shop to find 2-3 people who can do basic safety checks of bikes, and Poa Mutino will source a banner advertising the PAC for a table at the event.

9. Miscellaneous, next meeting Wednesday Sept. 9, 2026

a. Complaint about police reports

- i. Poa Mutino described a conflict that one of his neighbors has had with another neighbor, and the subsequent police reporting on that conflict. The Chief was familiar with the issue and described that a number of the complaints have been civil, not criminal, in nature, and that police reports cannot be changed, but can be added to by other parties in order to address additional perspectives.

b. Near-term launch of the Barre Resiliency

- i. Rainbow Bridge, Ishtar Collective, and other community organizations will be joining together at the space that currently houses Rainbow Bridge to create a Barre Resiliency Center that is welcoming and safe for all to come and seek help and support in many ways.

10. Adjourn

- a. Motion to adjourn made by Alex Pastor, seconded by Poa Mutino, and passed unanimously.

Minutes taken and respectfully submitted by Councilor Amanda Gustin.