Police Advisory Committee Agenda Wednesday,
July 9, 2025
6:00 pm

Public Safety Building
15 Fourth Street
Barre, VT 05641

Join Zoom Meeting
Meeting ID: 850 9177 9970
Telephone 1 929 205 6099

Members Present: Steve England, Sandy Rousse, Poa Mutino
Staff: Chief Vail, Amanda Gustin, Council Representative

1. Call to order

Steve England, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 6pm.

2. Consider approval or adjustments of the agenda

No adjustments requested. Motion made by Sandy Rousse and seconded by Poa Mutino to accept the agenda as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Elect Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary

Motion made by Sandy Rousse to nominate Steve England as Chair, seconded by Poa Mutino. Motion passed unanimously.
Motion made by Sandy Rousse to nominate Poa Mutino as Vice Chair, seconded by Steve England. Motion passed unanimously.
Motion made by Poa Mutino, seconded by Steve England to nominate Sandy Rousse as Secretary. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Receive guests

There were no guests.

5. Councilor Gustin's report

Councilor Gustin noted that this is her first meeting and is looking forward to working with the committee. Councilor discussed the passing of the conduct ordinance and policy at the last Barre City Council meeting and is curious to see how this ordinance and policy work out. She noted that there was a lot of change in the ordinance and policy from the first reading and was happy to see these changes. Councilor Gustin noted that she requested at Council that the data be brought back on a regular basis to measure how the ordinance is working noting we want to get it right. City Manager, Nicolas Storellicastro and Chief Vail will work to provide the data the Council is looking for. Chief Vail also noted he is already having to gather this information and more because of a public records request. The PAC will also be seeing this data regularly.

6. Chief Vail's report

Two applicants went to the academy and are in the background check phase of the process. Both applicants are for full time. This will decrease the vacancies from six to four. There will be a Sargeant position open.

Response to quality-of-life concerns, statistics and general discussion Chief Vail reported on steps being taken since the last meeting in response to the increased quality of life nuisances/crimes.

- City ordinance changes – added prohibition against public urination and defecation, trespass policy created.
- Security monitoring cameras placed in front of City Hall, intersection of Elm/Washington St, intersection of Maple Ave/N. Main St, and two cameras on Merchants Row with accompanying policy.
- Foot patrols increased in sensitive areas (City Hall Park, Aldrich Library, walk throughs, train tracks between Trow & Holden and Gustos)
- Instituted a quick response to encampment clean up by a contractor and have been clearing areas of shrubbery and trees for visibility of illegal encampments, working with individuals to connect them to resources
- Center bollards on bike patch junctions with roadways have been made removable to allow for police cruiser patrols of bike path, overhanging trees have been cut back
- Increased Park/playground trash removal by facilities (to include weekends)
- Working with Aldrich Public Library to remove shrubs in front of building to prevent hiding/sleeping in bushes
- Situation Table being brought to Barre – this group model made up of municipality leaders, public safety, mental health providers, Barre City schools, Sheriffs, State departments such as DCF, State's Attorney, and other community organizations may participate over time, are being put together across the State in areas of increased need related to nuisances/crimes, disorderly conduct, drug epidemic and homelessness.

Chief Vail also noted other items that are being worked on such as:

- Nuisance property ordinance to hold landlords accountable
- When staffing allows, restructuring to accommodate a Community and Support Services Supervisor who will oversee and develop community-oriented policing strategies, reinstitute bike patrol program, outreach, etc.
- When staffing allows, adding Task Force Officer positions to assign to drug task force, HSI, ATF, etc.

7. Discuss next steps for the PAC including meeting frequency

Poa asked what the next steps for the committee are. Discussion ensued around meetings being moved to quarterly meetings that include sharing of data as requested by the Council related to the conduct ordinance in addition to normal business outlined in the PACs charter. Members agreed to the changes as recommended. Chief Vail to update charter and share with Committee Chair and determine next steps for changes to be implemented.

8. Miscellaneous

Committee members discussed the need for additional members. Application can be found on City of Barre website. All members are asked to think of members that may have an interest noting that an individual may request to attend a meeting to understand how the committee runs, topics, etc.

9. Adjourn

Motion made by Steve England and seconded by Sandy Rousse. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:10pm.