

CITY OF BARRE
Police Advisory Committee Minutes
Wednesday March 11, 2026
6:00pm
Public Safety Building
15 Fourth Street
Barre, VT 05641

Present: Stephen England, Chair, Poa Mutino, Vice Chair, Alex Pastor, Sandy Rouse, Secretary, Chief Braedon Vail, Barre City Police Chief

Absent: Amanda Gustin, Barre City Council Representative

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:03pm.

2. Consider approval or adjustments of the agenda

Motion made to approve the agenda as presented by Sandy Rouse, seconded by Poa Mutino. Motion approved.

3. Consider approval of previous meeting minutes

Minutes reviewed. Motion made to accept the minutes of the 1/14/26 meeting with one change to #5, Neighborhood watch will **listed...**, seconded by Poa Mutino. Alex Pastor abstained. Motion approved.

4. Receive Guests

None

5. Councilor Gustin's Report

Councilor Gustin shared a report with Steve England, Chair to present. The "Barre Bees" will be back on the streets soon. Chief Vail noted they won't be called as such but will be part of the Community Service

Program. Motion made by Poa Mutino to accept Councilor Gustin's report, Alex seconded. Motion approved.

6. Chief Vail's Report

Chief Vail noted there are several officers in the Academy between Level 2 and 3 training programs. There is also another individual doing a panel interview on 3/16. If all goes well and this individual is hired the Department vacancies will be filled and they will be fully staffed.

Chief Vail also discussed the Community Service Program. He would like to see these officers be out in the Summer as well as extend their work into the schools having lunch with the students. There is a challenge as they will only be Level 2 Officers and would need to work and be trained by Level 3 Officers. Chief Vail to work this out.

7. Discuss results of updated City Civil Conduct Ordinances and Enforcement

Chief Vail revisited why the ordinance was put in place – to address quality of life issues in City Hall Park and other areas throughout the city. The ordinance was developed along the lines of the City of Burlington's, focusing on trespass violations which could become a criminal act over time if the individual violates repeatedly.

The Chief reviewed incidents prior to the ordinance. There were 87 at City Hall Park only from 7/1/24 – 7/19/25. From that time until now there has only been 19. Chief Vail noted that some of the issues started moved "location" and started occurring in Rotary Park of which Officers were present and able to divert problems for the most part. It was also noted that winter came early and the cold temperatures may have taken individuals out of the park into shelter so going into this summer will be more telling of what the data may look like in comparison.

Chief also reviewed the Barre City Police Department annual report. Violent offenses did increase primarily in the sexual assault category. Most of these incidents happen between known parties not strangers. A five year snapshot of violent crimes since 2021 show a significant decrease to 2025.

Use of Force is anything that is beyond compliant handcuffing, i.e., displaying/pointing a firearm, displays/warning or use of a baton, etc. In 2025 there was a 26% decrease in the Use of Force incidents from 2024.

Vehicle pursuits were down as there tends to be more focus on the safety of the Officers and others on the road in pursuit. There is consideration of the violation and professional judgement is used by the officers.

K-9 deployment activity – Chief Vail noted the animals are only on for 7 years. At that time a new animal is commissioned to service. An opportunity is given to other Officers by posting the K-9 Officer position. Chief Vail noted he is involved in most complaint investigations and policies and procedures dictate steps taken with Officers. Policies and procedures also determine when external investigators are brought in to investigate a complaint or certain types of Officer conduct.

8. Discussion on Neighborhood Watch Programs

Alex Pastor discussed her involvement with a Neighborhood Watch she's been involved in. She noted there were two individuals that did a really nice job in overseeing the success of the watch. Alex is hoping that Neighborhood Watch programs can be more formalized in the area to support Police. Chief Vail noted that Internal and External Bias training would be appropriate prior to forming these – he was a former instructor of this training. In addition, the Police can't be the lead of the Neighborhood Watches – community members/neighborhood members need to be the leads.

9. Miscellaneous, next meeting June 10, 2026

Committee discussed the opportunity to bring on more members. It was determined this was appropriate. Also, there was discussion of the role of the committee and how we can support the efforts of the Department. The Chair mentioned possibly our participation in Community Engagement functions and welcomed other ideas as we move forward.

10. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn meeting at 7:30pm made by Poa Mutino and seconded by Alex Pastor. Motion approved.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sandy Rousse
Secretary