Brattleboro Citizens Police Communications Committee
Minutes of Regular Meeting
March 27, 2017

Present: Ken McCaffrey, Darah Kehnemuyi, Ariel Nelson, Ben Coplan, Matthew Wright, Capt. Mark Carignan (Brattleboro Police Dep’t)

Meeting convened by Chair, Ken McCaffrey. (Quorum present.)

Agenda Review: one addition: Ariel, one item under New Business

Review of Minutes of February 27, 2017 regular meeting. Minutes approved.

Committee reviewed compliments given BPD. One compliment reviewed, which expressed a “thank you” to Officer Petlock and Det. Washburn.

The Committee reviewed complaints received by BPD. Two new complaints received. The first had eight points made, two of which were actually complimentary. Capt. Carignan advised the Committee of the current status of the complaint. The Complainant was connected by BPD with local services, in particular the Women’s Freedom Center. The Complainant asked to be contacted by CPCC and Ben agreed to follow up with her. The second complaint was reviewed. Capt Carignan advised the complaint was still being investigated as it involved the discharge of a gun in the town. The Complainant asked to be contacted by the CPCC, and Ben agreed to follow up with him.

One older complaint, involving loss of property was re-visited and the CPCC reviewed Chief Fitzgerald’s letter to the Complainant with BPD’s findings. The Complainant had not asked to be contacted by the CPCC. One other older complaint involving loss of property was also discussed. A resolution is currently being negotiated between BPD and the Complainant.

Committee proceeded to New Business. Ariel indicated she had been contacted by a person affiliated with an organization named “Fair and Impartial Policing”. That group apparently is collecting information about the functioning of various police review committees around Vermont. The Committee discussed its charge as given by the Selectboard as well as its functioning in implementing that charge. Ariel asked how CPCC should proceed. It was pointed out that the requesting organization was just starting its work, and at this point in time we could provide it with a copy of our charge from our Selectboard.

Public Participation: One community resident joined us and expressed her opinion on issues of social injustice.

Ken raised the issue of rotation of the position of Chair of the Committee, as set forth in our By-Laws. After discussion it was voted unanimously that Ken continue on as Chair. Darah will continue on as recorder, and Ben will continue in his current position.
Meeting adjourned at 6:40

Respectfully submitted,
Darah Kehnemuyi
Recording Clerk