Brattleboro Citizens Police Communications Committee
Minutes of Regular Meeting
July 24, 2017

Present: Ben Coplan, Darah Kehnemuyi, Ken McCaffrey
In Attendance: Chief Michael Fitzgerald Brattleboro Police Department

Meeting Called to Order by Ken McCaffrey at 5:35pm; Quorum present.

Election of Officers:
Darah Kehnemuyi Chair
Ken McCaffrey Recording Clerk
Ben Coplan Communications Monitor
Kehnemuyi assumed the Chair at this point.

Review of Open Meeting Law - tabled on unanimous voice vote
Announcement: Meeting on this topic to be held in the Selectboard Room on Weds. 7/26/17 at 6:pm. Coplan and McCaffrey will attend.

Review of Agenda - approved as warned
Review and Approval of Minutes
The minutes of May 22, 2017 were approved, noting the date has been corrected on the official web sight version.
The minutes of June 26, 2017 were approved as written.

Review of Compliments and Complaints
A note received complimented Officer Chad Emery for helping a citizen with a car problem at the Restless Rooster.
Detective Ryan Washburn was thanked for his assistance and compassionate advice some years ago to a person detained under the influence and who cited that experience as leading to sobriety ever since having been "humbled by the pep talk."
There were no complaints outstanding as of tonight’s meeting.

Unfinished Business - protocol and outreach of of CPCC; discussion
The question was raised as to the ongoing need for this committee in light of the small number of incidents involving CPCC. Chief Fitzgerald replied as to the positive role that CPCC plays. Specifically, there are times when it definitely does provide a valuable service to the community. The very existence of CPCC has a positive effect on citizen police relationships. Persons who voice a complaint to BPD are clearly informed as to the possibility of contacting CPCC and often knowing that an avenue for discussion other than the BPD is available often aids in alleviating misgivings. Discussion by members of BPD and CPCC enhances mutual understanding and BPD personnel investigating an incident benefit from objective input and questions from CPCC.
To further publicize CPCC and its mandate, Ken McCaffrey will forward draft of a proposed letter-to-the-editor to CPCC members to be reviewed at the next meeting. Said letter will be reviewed for possible publication, with modifications and/or changes in the effort to expand citizen awareness of CPCC and its mission.
The question was raised as to why there are so few communications recently. Chief Fitzgerald explained that he and/or supervisors meet with citizens regarding concerns about policing activities and by sitting and talking often times those concerns are resolved. Said persons are usually very appreciative of the mediating as BPD explains more fully the actions of patrol officers, who it was pointed out, don’t normally perform this role.

There was no New Business nor any Public Participation. The meeting was adjourned on voice approval at 6:23 pm.

The next meeting will be on Aug 28, 2017; 5:30 PM; Library Meeting Room.
Respectfully submitted
Ken McCaffrey
Recording Clerk