Brattleboro Citizens Police Communications Committee
Minutes of Regular Meeting, August 28, 2017

Present: Darah Kehnemuyi, Ben Coplan, Ken McCaffrey

Meeting Called to Order by Darah Kehnemuyi at 5:30pm; Quorum present.

Review of Agenda - approved as warned

Review and Approval of Minutes - July 24, 2017 minutes approved as written

Compliments & Complaints - none from BPD; one complaint received from the Town Manager's Office; A letter, from the Town Manager, to the complainant indicates that a copy has also been forwarded to Police Chief Michael Fitzgerald. Writing to CPCC, the Chief notes his receipt of said complaint and states that he has assigned an investigator and will submit a copy of his own review to CPCC. Also, he invites CPCC to email him with any questions or concerns. As the complainant indicated a desire to be contacted by CPCC, Ben Coplan, acting for CPCC, contacted the person and provided CPCC with a report. The complainant indicated a desire to learn more about the mediation process. To that end, at this CPCC meeting, it was moved, seconded and so voted to authorize Darah Kehnemuyi to request from Chief Fitzgerald a copy of his investigative summary as soon as it is available (see next section of these minutes) and as deemed necessary, to inform the Restorative Justice Center as to participation in mediation between the complainant and BPD. Ben Coplan has been authorized to relay this information to the complainant.

Discussion of CPCC procedures regarding receipt and handling of complaints - CPCC discussed this complaint as it was forwarded by the Town Manager’s Office rather than being received from BPD as is the usual process. Some degree as to the reasons why remain unclear as of this writing. It has also been discussed previously, on numerous occasions, that several weeks often elapse from the time of receipt of such complaints until a summary of BPD investigation reaches CPCC. Are we meeting the needs of our citizens, that is, enhancing communication under the current process? (Thus the authorization for more timely follow up in this case, authorized as noted above.)

Unfinished Business - It was moved, seconded and so voted to authorize Ken McCaffrey to submit reviewed CPCC outreach letter to the media for publication, (ie. the Reformer and the Commons).

New Business - vacancies - it was noted that the Select Board generally advertises said vacancies as they occur and then at six month intervals thereafter.

Change meeting frequency to every other month - it was decided to leave CPCC to meet monthly, the current frequency.

Moved, seconded and so voted to adjourn at 6:30pm.

The next meeting will be on Sept 25, 2017; 5:30 PM; Library Meeting Room.

Respectfully submitted
Ken McCaffrey
Recording Clerk