

Citizen Advisory Committee
January 13, 2026
5:00PM
Town Hall Conference Room, Chester, VT

1. Organization:

- a. CAC Members present: Vince, Mandy, Mike, Barry, and Frank (notetaker)
- b. CPD staff present: Chief Williams
- c. Review agenda.
- d. Other organizational items -
 - i. Approve minutes from October 14th, 2025.
 - 1. Approved.

2. Citizen's Comments: New and Old

- a. Concerned citizen email comments about traffic stops out on Rt.10. The CAC responded appropriately.
- b. Frank heard of a person in a truck giving the middle finger to a minor out mountain biking. Frank contacted parent to let them know that if they want CPD to look into the incident(s), that they should contact CPD and file a complaint.
- c. A citizen raised a concern about demonstrations at the Green. The chief stated that the events have been peaceful but there's a concern about safety. Reminders to be given to people that they can not block traffic and folks need to respond to the CPD. People are reaching out to CPD about events. FK and Vince will reach out to the people who are organizing the events.
- d. Vince will reach out to R. Spaulding. Notes to follow.
- e. Frank reached out to S. Dock who explained the process he uses if he is going to host an event.
 - i. ASAP Contact Town Manager
 - ii. Contact CPD
 - iii. Contact Chester Ambulance
 - iv. Re-connect with Town Manager and CPD about number of attendees if needed.
 - v. Establish a Safety Committee that has been trained to de-escalate situations if needed.
 - vi. Safety Committee can escort people safely through crosswalks.
 - vii. CPD is welcome to attend and/ or monitor events more closely.

3. Chester Police Department Comments and/ or Input

- a. Sgt. Rheume is meeting with GMUHS/ CAES students. Role model, problem solving, and listening to the students.

- b. CPD is at the GMUHS basketball games and dances. Tournament play has also had a CPD presence. This community policing is an important part of the CPD. Officer Batista has been connecting with Project ACTION which is out of Springfield. Project ACTION brings together multiple stakeholders to support people in need. Officer Batista has been helping folks in town get connected with housing and other services.
4. Sub-Committee Updates:
- a. Communication: The 2025 CAC submission for the Annual Report was reviewed. Edits were offered and accepted. Revised version is below. It will be sent to the Town Clerk.

Citizens Advisory Committee

The Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) was established under the direction of the Chester, VT Selectboard in 2023. The Committee was created to act as a resource for the Town of Chester and the Chester Police Department to assist in the formation of strategies, development of community policing concepts, increasing public awareness, furthering engagement and transparency efforts, and helping to identify best practices. The Committee provides a forum for discussions concerning community issues and the goal is to have a broad spectrum of viewpoints represented.

The five members of the CAC meet the second Tuesday of January, April, August, and November at the Chester Town Hall. People can reach the Citizens Advisory Committee at cac.chester.vt@gmail.com.

- b. Personnel: Full on the full time officers. Part time officers are low. Applications are coming in. Using the PoliceApp helps outline the process for prospective officers. Admin and sergeant are involved in the hiring process. All CPD are at least first responders.
 - c. Community Awareness: see above.
 - d. Policy Review: None needed.
5. Other Items
- a. Some CAC members will be renominated after the Town Meeting
 - b. Motion to adjourn at 5:50PM. Moved and seconded. All voted in favor.
6. Next Meeting:
- a. April 14, 2026