

Citizen Advisory Committee
April 8, 2025
5:30 p.m.

1. Organization:

- a. Review agenda.
- b. Present: Vince Buckholz, Barry Fowler, Mike LeClair, Mandy Lindsey, and Frank Kelley (note taker)
- c. Public: Alicia DiPietro (Chester PD) and Chief Tom Williams
- d. Review CAC Mission Statement
- e. *The Chester, VT Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) was established under the direction of the 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 help to identify best practices. The Committee is intended to provide 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 the month at the Chester Town Hall. People can reach the Citizens Advisory Committee at cac.chester.vt@gmail.com.*
- f. Other organizational items -
 - i. Elect Committee Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary
 1. Frank was nominated, seconded. All in favor.
 2. Vince was nominated, seconded. All in favor.
 3. Mandy was nominated, seconded. All in favor.

2. Citizen's Comments (10 minutes)

3. Chester Police Department Comments and/ or Input (10 minutes)

The Chief explained the model for public safety and how it saved a barn in Chester. The cross-training made a huge difference. We have a faster response time than most fully staffed stations. How do we maintain the safety of the public at a reasonable price? The present model is working very well.

CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) Meeting - 10 in the meeting, 15 in total are interested. Community outreach for the PD Department. Training to start in the coming weeks, 20+ hours in VEFR (Volunteer Emergency First Responder). Ludlow is interested in the same model, possibly a regional endeavor. The opportunity exists then for more CERT people to be at community events.

The cruiser that got damaged is getting fixed. It's a little bit of a mess since the building was bought by someone else. There is the possibility of a different structure being installed down the road.

4. Sub-Committee Reorganization: (15 minutes)

- a. Communication - We will continue to be available for helping with communication as needed.
 - b. Personnel - Oral Boards could be used for a part-time position. PD will reach out to CAC if we can be of help.
 - c. Data Analysis - Annual report has all the basic information. There is a lot of time in meetings and paperwork which has not been recorded. Documenting the time officers are spending will be helpful. More info forthcoming.
 - d. Community Awareness - Police Night Out. Advertisement and fund-raising for bringing all public safety people together. The Pinnacle worked well. Sponsors will be sought. Games and other supplies have been procured.
 - i. Consider a CAC meeting with food here at Town Hall to explain about the CAC and what were doing. Consider the Public Safety Building.
 - ii. Background checks needed from CAC members.
 - e. Policy Review - Barry is interested in reviewing them. Mike is interested in the use of force policy.
5. Other Items
- a. May 1, 2025 Open Meeting Laws. From Julie Hance, Town Manager:
 - b. *The Town of Chester will be hosting an Open Meeting Law Training on **Thursday, May 1, 2025 from 6:00-8:00 p.m.** in the upstairs of Town Hall. Pizza will be provided. This is an important training for all those who serve on any "official" municipal board or committee. Official Government meetings are subject to Vermont's Open Meeting Laws, which can be confusing and complex. These laws have also recently been amended by the Vermont Legislature and we have many new Board members.*
 - i. Email Julie Hance julie.hance@chestervt.gov. If you're interested in the meeting.
 - c. Police Night Out - 08/05/25
6. Next Meeting: July 8th, 2025 5:30PM - Public Safety Building
7. Adjourn