

Town of Brunswick, Maine

POLICING REVIEW COMMITTEE

MEETING SUMMARY

**Thursday, March 4, 2021
5:00 P.M. – 6:00 P.M.**

Present: Councilor Jim Mason, Councilor Dan Ankeles, Councilor Kathy Wilson, Troy Henninger, Jason Gould, Linda Asher-Ford, Claudia Watson, Flora Hull and Scott Stewart, Police Chief

Approval of meeting summary from February 4, 2021:

Chair Jason Gould motioned to approve the minutes from February 25, 2021 as submitted. Troy Henninger seconded the motion. The motion carried with 7 (seven) yeas.

Chair Gould acknowledged that the committee had received some questions from the community, and those would be addressed at the next meeting. This meeting will be dedicated to the Committees' questions, comments and ideas for recommendations.

Questions and comments were given by Claudia Watson, and were answered by Jason Gould and James Mason.

Linda commented on the relationship and communication between the PD and younger persons of color and how to make them feel more comfortable.

Dan commented on stronger bridge between elected officials and departments to help adopt a regular communications schedule.

Flora wondered are we really addressing things to go forward in a helpful manner? She believes in opportunity for improvement, and how to accept and address the broader concept in the country, Jason stated that yes, we have policies, but that doesn't mean we don't have a problem, and we need to figure out how to have those conversations.

Claudia would like to find ways to advocate or impact the relationship between police and community by amplifying voices of the community, and to address relationships without police outreach, which Chair Gould responded to.

Troy suggests the role of youth in the process is important, and to interact in different formats. How active is the bridge between youth and PD?

Kathy suggests a forum to listen to youth perspectives.

Chief Stewart responded that they do have a lot of youth programs, given the scenario some programs have been ramped back. He spoke about the oversight that holds officers accountable, and about prevention. He's confident that those things aren't happening here because of the training and mechanisms in place.

Public comments: None

Jason polled the Committee and found that there was a consensus around trying to engage Brunswick youth and to facilitate their voices. Troy will get kids with experiences they want to share authentically for the meeting after next to inform committee's recommendations.

Councilor Ankeles and Claudia Watson commented.

Chief Stewart explained how to report an incident using the website.

Next Meeting/Agenda: March 18th, receive and review questions from the community

April 1: working with students at Bowdoin and the public schools

Chair Gould moved to adjourn the meeting. Councilor Mason seconded. The motion was unanimous of those present.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Chair Gould asked Linda to get questions to the committee from a group she has been corresponding with.

Debra L. Blum
Administrative Assistant