

Webster Police Advisory Committee

Meeting Date Monday, June 17, 2013

Members of the Committee are Jeannette Baker, Linda Clark, Kevin Sullivan, Richard Inman and Kate Merchant.

This was the first meeting of the new committee. A chairperson and secretary were chosen.

Linda Clark-Chairperson

Kate Merchant- Secretary

A mission statement was drafted as "The Webster Police Advisory Committee shall provide unbiased, community minded feedback to promote integrity, honesty and transparency between the Police Department and community. "

Meetings will be held monthly on the first Monday following the Selectman's meeting. Meetings will be held at the Public Safety building are open to the public. The schedule of meetings is posted on the town website www.webster-nh.gov.

The Committee spoke about reviewing police policies to understand policies that were recently updated. This will allow the committee to be able to give feedback to the Chief on newly adopted or updated policies. The Chief stated that we are welcome any time to come in a read them.

The Committee spoke about how to "get the word out":

- Create a pamphlet that will be available at the town offices and Public Safety building to include meetings dates, mission statement and members. Kate will work on creating one for review at the next meeting.
- Table at Old Home Day to be manned by committee members. The Chief is looking into whether a banner can be donated.
- Facebook page for Police Department- Kate will speak with Boscawen PD regarding theirs. This may help to communicate with the community about events or suspicious activity for homeowners to be aware of.
- Community Events hosted by the Police Department.

Jeannette asked the Chief about ongoing training and recertification for Officers- the NH Police Academy requires that Officer's complete yearly training.

Richard stated that "we need to have a voice"- specifically to discuss policies and issues within the department and asked the Chief if we could have access to prior complaints against Officers. That way we could have a better understanding of what the issues were so the committee can make suggestions for changes. The Chief will speak with Town Attorney to see what can be shared, as the complaints are Personnel issues.

There was much discussion regarding whether the committee could take complaints. The Chief stated that all complaints must go directly to him; however, if a resident wasn't comfortable going to see him alone, a committee member may go with them to the Chief.

The Committee will brainstorm thoughts as to what we want the committee to do as well as what is bothersome about the Police Department. We will discuss these at the next meeting.

The next meeting is Monday July15, 2013 at 6:30pm at the Public Safety Building.