

**Town of Montague**  
**Meeting of the Community Engagement Police Advisory Group**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Meeting Held Remotely VIA Zoom Conference**  
**October 28, 2020**

Attendees:

Community Engagement Advisory Group: Denise Aiken, Kathleen Burek, Natan Cohen, Thomasina Hall, Colin Mitchell, Chris Pinaridi. Kwamane Harris was absent.

Montague Selectboard: Michael Nelson

1. **Meeting called to order:** The meeting was called to order at 6:20pm.
2. **Previous minutes:** Minutes of the October 21st meeting were approved by roll call vote with all in favor.
3. **Discussion of how to work with our two subgroups:** The group discussed how best to approach our two subgroups. Chris asked if we should break into smaller groups to work with them? After some discussion, there was a consensus that breaking the committee into smaller groups wouldn't make a lot of sense. Natan suggested that we rename the "minorities" subgroup to "people of color" which everyone agreed with. There was a general consensus to not break into groups, and to focus on a single survey that would work for both subgroups.
4. **Discuss how to accomplish our goals within our timeline:** The group discussed potential timelines. Thomasina pointed out that there are only a total of 4 possible meeting dates before Thanksgiving, which is when we are supposed to be done with our work. The group agreed to meet on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving, and also on Veterans Day. Thomasina asked for an update on the documents we requested from the Montague Police Department. Chris mentioned that the MPD had sent one document containing some statistics and other information, but it was going to take some more time for them to gather their policy documents together. The group discussed how to pull together a survey that would best accomplish our goals. Natan pointed out that this work is in response to the national movement that is addressing the broad scope of policing at all levels, and that it makes sense to use the survey to ask what the ideal role of police is in the community. For example, are there ways you'd like to see more/less policing in the community? Colin mentioned that collecting broad data about how the community feels about policing would be a great accomplishment. Kathy suggested pulling together 5 questions or so to ask the community. Thomasina proposed some rough action steps:
  - a. Finish the survey at next week's meeting
  - b. Send it out after the meeting
  - c. Close the survey some time shortly before our last meeting
  - d. Meanwhile, review MPD data
  - e. Review survey data when it's complete

The group agreed to use Google Forms to generate the survey, and Thomasina agreed to build the survey since she has a lot of experience with the tool. The group discussed sending the survey to the newspaper, posting it on social media, and also doing some in-person interviews if possible.

Chris suggested that it would make sense to have some qualifying questions in the survey -- age, which village the responder is from, etc, and the group spent some time defining them:

- a. Name - optional
- b. Age groups - less than 18, 19-25, 25-40, 40-64, 65 over,
- c. Residence: A list of all of the villages of Montague, Not a resident, Prefer not to say,
- d. Ethnicity - Natan suggested using checkboxes here.
  - i. Black
  - ii. Native American
  - iii. Latinx/Hispanic
  - iv. Asian
  - v. Pacific islander
  - vi. Free form input for other
- e. Gender - It was also agreed to use checkboxes here.
  - i. Male
  - ii. Female
  - iii. Non-binary
  - iv. Transgender

**5. Review data and documents from MPD:** Chris shared some data from MPD. He mentioned that the Chief of Police has made himself available to both working groups. He would prefer to meet with both groups at once if possible but can definitely meet with each group individually, but expects there might be some overlap in the conversations.

Having reviewed the data, the group had some questions about some discrepancies in the categories used across different reports. For example, the only place that had a Hispanic/Latinx segment was in the use of force statistics. Natan mentioned that there were several items the group requested which we didn't have yet -- nothing about the MPD's relationship with ICE (if any). No traffic stop data, just citation data, ie, some people get off with verbal warnings, are they included here? Colin wanted to know the actual source of the ethnicity data in reporting. Chris made a list of questions to send back to the MPD.

Thomasina asked when the document we received was actually generated. Chris mentioned that it was presented to the other group the week before, and seemed to have data that was up to date as of June. In zoom chat, Ariel mentioned that this document was something that MPD had generated in July to present to the town. Chris mentioned that the chief had told him that the MPD has some policies regarding youth which they wanted to present to the group.

#### **6. Setting agenda for the next meeting:**

- Finish building the survey
- Review any new data from MPD

**7. Adjournment:** Natan moved to close the meeting, the motion carried, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:20pm.