

Town of Montague
Meeting of the Community Engagement Police Advisory Group
Meeting Minutes
Meeting Held Remotely VIA Zoom Conference
November 11, 2020

Attendees:

Community Engagement Advisory Group: Kathleen Burek, Natan Cohen, Colin Mitchell, Chris Pinardi.

Absent: Thomasina Hall, Denise Aiken, Kwamane Harris,

Montague Selectboard: Michael Nelson

1. **Meeting called to order:** The meeting was called to order at 6pm. Roll call was taken.
2. **Approve minutes of November 4, 2020:** Minutes hadn't been sent out so we decided to approve them at the next meeting.
3. **Finalize the survey:** Since the last meeting, members had finished generating most of the survey on Google Forms. During the meeting, Natan wrote an introduction to the survey, and we updated the list of races/ethnicities to include white. We tweaked the wording and formatting of a couple of questions. We discussed limiting submissions by IP address but agreed it wasn't going to accomplish much and might be a bad idea. There was also some discussion about concerns regarding fake data, fake stories, etc.

Chris mentioned that he had shown the potential survey questions to a number of people, and got some feedback that the time-based questions were confusing without a timeframe. We had a discussion about this and decided to leave the questions as is since we had discussed this in detail during the previous meeting and came to a decision to not include a timeframe.

Kathy asked about how we would distribute the survey, and had some worries about getting it to people who don't have internet/computers/etc. Mike said that it could be posted to the town Facebook page and website. Colin suggested sending a letter to the Montague Reporter. Natan suggested getting in touch with the school system and ask them to email it to parents. Natan also suggested putting up some fliers in town with a link to the survey. Chris suggested also emailing it to the Recorder.

There were some questions and concerns about responses that could potentially include private information and whether all responses needed to be part of the public record. Mike Nelson confirmed that personal data can be redacted, such as contact information or personally identifying information.

There was some discussion of when the survey would be closed. Kathy advocated for a longer timeline, especially because of the end of the year holidays. Natan suggested checking in on Dec 2nd to see how we are doing and being open to keeping the survey open longer if needed.

Mike made a motion to accept the final draft of the survey, and for the committee to begin sending it out with the goal of reviewing the data on December 2nd. Kathy seconded. A roll call vote was taken and all voted yes.

Mike agreed to contact the school committee and get the survey onto the town Facebook page. Colin agreed to write to the Recorder. Natan agreed to make a flier and also to write to the Reporter. Kathy agreed to make some hard copies and work with people in person.

- 4. Review any new data from the Montague Police Department:** Chris had received an email from a resident of Montague (later identified as Jeff Singleton) with some data for arrests broken down by race as well as a letter. Colin mentioned that he had done some clarifying work on the citation data but wasn't done yet. Chris mentioned that the ethnicity data was a little confusing and perhaps sketchy because it isn't clear where it came from. Colin mentioned that we asked the Chief a yes/no question about whether the town has worked with ICE and did not get a yes/no response. Chris suggested setting up a meeting and asked about if we want to meet with the SROs too. In chat, Ariel mentioned that the other subcommittee on police use of force is meeting with the Chief of Police at their 11/19 meeting. Colin said he would try to attend that meeting.
- 5. Topics not anticipated:** Matt Lord spoke during public comment about suggesting the group spend some time generating questions to ask the chief. Natan mentioned that we don't know what the existing community feedback process is for the MPD. We discussed a list of topics for the next meeting, which was to check on the survey status, continue to review data received from the MPD, and to generate some questions to ask the Chief of Police.
- 6. Adjournment:** Kathy Burek had fallen off the call so since we lost quorum, the meeting ended at 7:30pm.