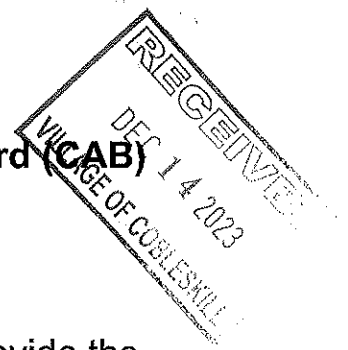


**Village of Cobleskill Police Citizens Advisory Board (CAB)
Annual Report
2023**



According to the CAB bylaws, the purpose of the CAB is to provide the Police Department and the Police Chief with the community's perspective with respect to crime, safety, neighborhood issues, and how the Police Dept can improve its services and better integrate with the community it serves.

CAB membership consists of the Cobleskill Mayor, the Chief of Police, and five citizens of the Village of Cobleskill. Citizens who are interested in serving on CAB submit an application to the Cobleskill Village Board of Trustees. From the pool of applications, 5 volunteers are selected by the trustees. The 2022 - 2023 members were Mayor Rebecca Stanton-Terk, Police Chiefs Jeffrey Brown and Justin Manchester, Patricia Mesibov, John Sapovits, John Stiles, Vice Chair Wendy Cook, and Chairman John O'Donnell. In April 2023 John Stiles resigned from the board and was replaced by John Jarvis.

In July 2023 Eight (8) officers including Police Chief Manchester and former Police Chief Brown resigned from the department. In August 2023 the Village hired former NYS trooper James McCrum as the new police chief. Chief McCrum began work with the Village Board of Trustees reorganizing and restaffing the department to the VBOT desired level of five (5) full time and four (4) part time officers. Former State Police Investigator George Bird was subsequently hired as Deputy Chief and Marsha McHugh as secretary to the chief. As of this writing, the department has three (3) full time and three (3) part time police officers on staff. The Schoharie County Sheriff's department and the NYS Police have provided assistance during this staff shortage.

Three CAB meetings were held in 2023: April 19, September 20, and November 15.

Minutes from all meetings are available to the public on the Police Department website at:

<https://www4.schohariecounty-ny.gov/village-governments/village-of-cobleskill-home-page/cobleskill-village-police-department/>

Vehicle speed monitoring devices have been placed on certain village streets where permitted. Department staff will be using that data to determine potential speeding hotspots in need of law enforcement.

CAB continued to examine monthly Uniform Crime Reports. Some of the UCR data was compiled in a spreadsheet to enhance its usability. This effort was discontinued in July 2023. CAB looks forward to the resumption of the statistics collection.

CAB members examined the bylaw procedures for inviting guest speakers to meetings. No changes to the current bylaws were made.

CAB reviewed the Village of Cobleskill Resolution #5-21 and the Village of Cobleskill Police Department Reform and Reinvention Collaborative Plan and determined that the initial goals and objectives assigned to CAB by the VBOT have now been met.

CAB has been kept up to date on the ongoing Labarge report. When completed, this county-wide law enforcement feasibility study should be a useful tool for the Village decision makers.

CAB continues to be a useful tool in fostering communication between the Village Police Department and the community. Programs toward that end should continue.

This 2023 CAB report is submitted to the Cobleskill Village Board of Trustees on behalf of CAB by Chairman John O'Donnell on 12/15/23.

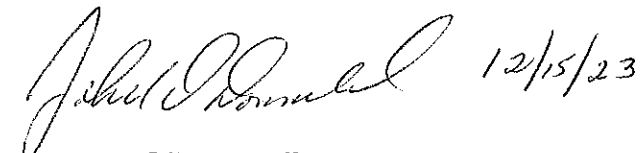
Outgoing Chairman's comments:

As in the past, residents have complained about loud, unpleasant vehicle engine noise on village streets. Also, contributing to the noise pollution are loud diesel trucks using Jake/engine brakes. Some municipalities in the US have outlawed Jake braking. The VBOT should examine this issue and determine if additional legislation may be in the best interest of village residents.

Also, violations of zoning law incidents such as parked cars on front lawns and the presence of garbage bags, trashcans, and other unkept property are referred to the Village Codes Enforcement Officer (ZEO). Village residents should report violations via email to pecceo@midtel.net or call 518-234-4661.

It has been a pleasure and an education to serve on the Citizens Advisory Board. I am grateful to have had this opportunity. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "John J. O'Donnell", followed by the date "12/15/23".

John J. O'Donnell

CAB Chairman 9/16/21 - 12/31/23