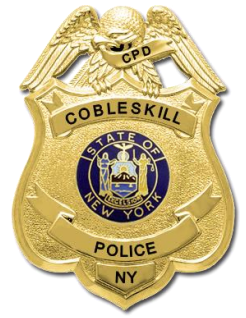




Cobleskill Police Department

378 Mineral Springs Road
Cobleskill NY 12043
(518) 234-2923



Chief of Police Justin Manchester

Citizens Advisory Board Minutes

October 19, 2022, 6 pm

Chairman John O'Donnell called the meeting to order at 6:04 pm. Present were CAB members John O'Donnell, John Sapovits, John Stiles, Police Chief Justin Manchester, Mayor Rebecca Stanton-Terk, Recording Clerk Dorothy Gerdes, guest SUNY Cobleskill Chief Diversity Officer and Executive Director of Educational Support Services Derwin Bennett, guest Police Officer Jeffery Brown, and four community members. Excused were Wendy Cook and Patricia Mesibov.

The Chairman read the Citizens Advisory Board Statement of Purpose: "The purpose of the Village of Cobleskill Police Citizen Advisory Board (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 Department can better integrate with the community it serves and improve its services."

The minutes of the July meeting, which had been distributed by email, were reviewed and corrected to reflect the revised URL of the approved Village of Cobleskill Police Citizen Advisory Board Bylaws at <https://www4.schohariecounty-ny.gov/PdfFiles/VCOB/police/CABbylawsRev.pdf>. Mayor Becky moved to accept the minutes as corrected. John Sapovits seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

The Chairman invited Chief Manchester to speak about his law enforcement career and his most recent promotion. The Chief grew up in Schoharie and he and his family have lived in the Village of Cobleskill since 1999. After beginning his career at the County Sheriff's Dispatching Division, he became a Schoharie County Sheriff's Deputy. He transferred to the Cobleskill Police Department, serving 14 years on patrol, four years as Sergeant, and three years as Lieutenant-Investigator before his promotion to Chief of Police on July 30, 2022. He is working to reallocate personnel resources to better serve the dynamic law enforcement needs of the Village of Cobleskill. Chief Manchester will be assisted by Lieutenant-Investigator Matthew Battisti who has been promoted within the department from Sergeant.

The Mayor and the Chairman invited a visiting community member to express concerns about bullying in the schools and drug sales and drug influence in the Cobleskill community. As a mother, this citizen reported that her 10-year-old daughter has been bullied via social media and by other students while on campus to a point where the daughter is many times afraid to go to school. This mother has complained to the school authorities but has not been satisfied by the response and so the problem is ongoing. The mother is asking for the police to conduct anti-bullying programs within the schools and will schedule a meeting with Chief Manchester to further discuss the problem.

The mother discussed her concerns about the prevalence of drug use and drug sales in the Village. Chief Manchester and Officer Brown (former Chief of Police) explained that collaborative and extensive work has been done with federal and state law enforcement within the Village over many years to investigate illegal drug possession or sale. Massive effort has many times resulted in uncooperative witnesses, inadequate admissible evidence, hurdles to prosecute a case beyond a reasonable doubt, and diminished

opportunity for arrest. The current state cashless bail laws have emboldened criminals as they perceive few consequences for violating the law.

Cobleskill Police Department Policy Manual Report and Discussion

Chairman O'Donnell lead the Policy Manual discussion in Wendy Cook's absence.

- **300.6 Medical Considerations** “Any individual exhibiting signs of physical distress after an encounter **should** be continuously monitored until he/she can be medically assessed.” The word “should” implies that this is what is supposed to be done. It was noted that the proposed change from “should” to “shall” in the quoted sentence would be better considered in full context of policy 300.6, as it is a lengthy policy. The proposal to change this policy was tabled until the next meeting.
- **300.7 Supervisor Responsibilities** (c) 2. “The fact that a recorded interview was conducted **should** be documented in a property or other report.” The word “should” will be changed to “shall.”
(c) 3. “The recording of the interview **should** be distinctly marked for retention until all potential for civil litigation has expired.” The word “should” will be changed to “shall.”
(d) 1. “These photographs **should** be retained until all potential for civil litigation has expired.” The word “should” will be changed to “shall.”
(f) 1. “Supervisors **should** require that officers who engaged in the use of force submit the appropriate report.” The word “should” will be changed to “shall.”

SUNY Liaison Report – Derwin Bennett

- Students have not reported any negative interactions with anyone in the Village or with Cobleskill Police.
- SUNY is expanding its assortment of microcredential programs, seeking to offer more business-themed microcredentials to local businesses.
- Chief Manchester will meet with Derwin soon to discuss microcredentialing for officers.

Old Business

- **Excessive Speed and Vehicle Noise**. The speed monitoring devices were delivered and await New York State Department of Transportation approval for installation.
- **Cobleskill Police Department Ride-Alongs**. CAB members are reminded that they can request police ride-alongs.

New Business

- **Membership, CAB**. The one-year terms of Patricia Mesibov and John Sapovits expire this year; they are asked to continue for new two-year terms.
- **Code Enforcement**. Incidents of cars parked on village lawns and garbage bags lingering in plain sight for extended periods are referred to the Village Codes Enforcement Officer.
- **CAB Annual Report**. The annual report is due to the Village Board of Trustees by December 15. A special meeting of the Citizens Advisory Board is scheduled for Wednesday, November 16, 2022 at 6:00 pm at 378 Mineral Springs Road, Cobleskill.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Citizen's Advisory Board will be the special meeting on November 16, 2022 at 6:00 pm at 378 Mineral Springs Road, Cobleskill.

Mayor Becky moved to adjourn the meeting. John Stiles seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Dorothy Gerdes
Secretary to the Chief of Police