

Summary of October 22th Meeting of the Saranac Lake Police Review Committee

The meeting was held via zoom from 3:30 pm to 4:30 pm. Present were: John Sweeney, Chief James Joyce, Melinda Little, Chris Morris, Ernest Hough, Betsy Fuller, Rhonda Lynn Couwenhoven, Asst. DA David Hayes, Angela Brice, Suzanne Lavigne. Not in attendance Sarah Clarkin

Committee reviewed the Handcuff policy – Current Police Policies do not support the use of handcuffs in a punitive manner.

Review of Survey Results:

1. Many respondents called for more Police Outreach and Community involvement
 - Reach out to the LGBT community
 - Ways for SL Police Officers to have more of a presence in the community included:
 - Offering the Bike Rodeo again
 - An event similar to “Touch a Truck” with the Police Department
 - Public updates about SCAM’s and awareness of these
 - Continued Door Checks
 - It was agreed that the discussion needs to continue and to include the greater SL community.
 - The concept of Community Wellness was discussed and the need to engage the community and embrace that concept. It can’t fall completely on the shoulders of the Police Dept.
 - Rhonda offered to brainstorm with Sarah Clarkin on ways to engage the community at the Harrietstown Housing Authority.
2. Long term training opportunities: The Police Chief is looking into various opportunities.
3. It was noted that some issues raised in the survey can’t be solved by the SLPD.
4. Pairing with Mental Health – Currently the Police Chief and Franklin County are working on opportunities in addition to the pilot program based on the Essex County model that’s already in the works.

Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion Program - Programs currently available:

- Adult & Family Treatment Courts
- Mental Health Treatment
- Referral program that provide Police a referral process to more specified groups
- Adult Protective Services
- St. Josephs’ outreach program

Review of Executive Order to see what we have already accomplished