

Yarmouth Police Services Advisory Committee
 Minutes of Meeting
 January 16, 2024, 4:30 p.m.
 Town Hall Community Room

Name	Status	Term ends	Present
[Vacancy]	Voting member	2024	
Mary Lynn Engel	Co-chair	2024	X
Jamie Orenstein	Voting member	2025	X
Mary Lou Michael	Voting member	2025	X
Susan Hall Dreher	Voting member	2025	
Katrina Meade	Co-chair	2026	
Jennifer Willard	Voting member	2026	X
Chief Dan Gallant	Non-voting member (PD)	2024	X
Wiley Schumacher	Non-voting member (YHS)	2024	
David Craig (filling in for Zoe Wolf)	Town Counsel Liaison	2024	X

1. Remote access for meetings:

In light of the inability of some committee members to attend meetings in person in December (which had to be cancelled) and January, members discussed whether and how to allow for remote participation. Although the technology is not great, remote participation for members and the public is possible in the Community Room. The video link needs to be included in the public notice for each meeting.

The Committee approved by a vote of 4-0 a motion to arrange for remote access for all future meetings. Chief Gallant will send members a previously prepared draft policy on remote participation to implement the decision, which the Committee can discuss at the next meeting.

2. Survey:

Members continued discussing a potential survey to send to town residents concerning their interactions with the police. Members agreed to provide comments on a draft questionnaire circulated in advance of the meeting. There were questions about how to pay the costs of any such survey, and members discussed two possibilities: asking the Town Council for the necessary funds or (if the cost is within certain limits) having the Police Department sponsor it. In addition, a question was raised as to whether a survey would be premature at this stage and might be more useful after the Committee has gained experience engaging with specific policy matters, such as the draft policy on underage drinking currently under review. No motions were made or voted on.

2. Underage drinking policy:

The committee discussed the Police Department's draft policy on underage drinking at length. Chief Gallant answered questions about the reasons for adopting a policy and the enforcement issues it is intended to address. The Committee appointed a working group to collate input from all members on the draft policy and come up with options for proposed revisions. The working group will include Chief Gallant, Mary Lou Michael, Jamie Orenstein, and Wiley Schumacher.

3. Approval of minutes:

By a vote of 4-0, the Committee approved the minutes of the meeting held on November 21, 2023.

4. Committee members and officers for 2024

Members congratulated Co-Chair Katrina Meade and Member Jennifer Willard, whose terms ended on December 31, 2023, on their appointments to new three-year terms.

In light of the absence of some members, the Committee deferred until a later meeting (when all members are present) the election of new officer for the 2024 term. The 2023 officers will continue in their positions until new officers are elected.

5. Vacancies:

There remain vacancies for one voting member and one non-voting student member.

6. Next meeting:

February 20, 2024, 4:30 p.m., Town Hall Community Room.