

# Town of Brunswick, Maine

## POLICING REVIEW COMMITTEE

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### MEETING SUMMARY

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**Thursday, February 25, 2021  
5:00 P.M. – 6:00 P.M.**

**Present:** Councilor Jim Mason, Councilor Dan Ankeles, Councilor Kathy Wilson, Troy Henninger, Jason Gould, Claudia Watson and Scott Stewart, Police Chief

**Absent:** Flora Hull, Linda Asher-Ford

**Guest Speakers:** Overview of the BPD/Bowdoin community policing relationship and collaboration efforts with guests Benje Douglas, Bowdoin College Associate Vice President for Inclusion and Diversity and Director of Title IX, Gender Violence; Randy Nichols, Bowdoin Executive Director of Security; Tim Hanson, Bowdoin Associate Director of Security; and Janet Lohmann, Dean of Student Affairs

#### **Approval of meeting summary from February 4, 2021:**

Chair Jason Gould motioned to approve the minutes from February 4, 2021 as submitted. Claudia Watson seconded the motion. The motion carried with 6 (six) yeas.

Chair Jason Gould reviewed the topic of this meeting, community policing and how to make students and youth of color feel safe, and shared a personal story of harassment with the committee.

Chief Stewart before briefly discussed his relationship with Bowdoin College.

Randy Nichols introduced himself as the Executive Director of Security, with 16 years at Bowdoin College. He described meeting with the students regularly and building trust and security, and also brings the Police Department to Bowdoin to talk about crime, safety and interaction, for both on- and off-campus students. Her job endeavors to help students navigate school, athletic, community relationships, bias and personal choices and consequences.

Janet Lohmann is the Dean of Student Affairs, in her second year with that title, with a total of 19 years at Bowdoin. She and her colleagues work with students beyond the classroom. She believes the relationship Bowdoin shares with the Police Department has a great level of communication and engagement.

Benje Douglas is the Associate Vice President for Inclusion and Diversity and the Title IX Coordinator. The students are adults and may or may not want to report, but he lets them know of the different ways to address their grievance and feel in charge of their decision-making process. Connecting with the Police Department is the right choice for many of them, and they have connected quickly with their students and made them feel like part of the larger Brunswick community.

Chair Gould and Troy Henninger asked questions about resources for harassment issues from members of the community, to which Ms. Lohmann and Benje Douglas responded.

Chair Gould provided an hypothetical situation, and Chief Stewart provided information regarding how it would be dealt with, emphasizing the fact that even if there is no “victim”, his department would investigate. Benje Douglas explained that there was not always something to do – sometimes he needs to just listen and make someone feel safe.

Questions were asked by Troy Henninger, which were answered by Randy Nichols, Ms. Lohmann and Benje Nichols. Councilor Kathy Wilson made a comment

Public comments: None

Claudia Watson asked a question, which Randy Nichols and Chief Stewart answered.

Chair Jason Gould asked the Committee to review notes from past meetings to reflect upon what they’ve learned, and to prepare some possible recommendations for their report to the Town Council.

Next meeting: March 4, 2021 at 5:00 pm.