
BRAVO Meeting Minutes

February 2, 2026

7:00 PM

Brandon Museum, 4 Grove St. (U.S. Route 7), Brandon

Present: Mitch Pearl, Paula Ashley, Sue Gage, Deb Boyce (by phone)

Sue Gage agreed to take minutes in Erin Kilpeck's absence.

1. Approve or Amend Agenda

Sue moved to approve the agenda; seconded by Paula. Motion passed.

2. Last Meeting Notes

Minutes from the meeting of November 3, 2025 were reviewed. (The January meeting was canceled due to weather; no regular meeting was held in December.)

Sue moved to approve the minutes; seconded by Paula. Mitch noted that Paula's last name was misspelled. Minutes were approved with acknowledgment of the error.

3. Report on Communications with Chief of Police and Implications Regarding the Future of This Committee in Light of Statewide Developments in Restorative Justice (Mitch)

Mitch reported that he reached out to Chief David Kachajian regarding BRAVO, recent changes in restorative justice laws, and the fact that BRAVO is currently not receiving cases from the local police department. Chief Kachajian feels that BRAVO is important for the town and would like to see restorative justice remain at the local level but understands that a shift to a Rutland County group may be necessary if required by law. However, until it is clear that the state will actually follow through, he feels that BRAVO should remain active locally.

The Chief noted that most of the cases handled by the local police department recently are serious matters not appropriate for restorative justice. It was also noted that weekend coverage by the Rutland County Sheriff's Department, and cases handled by the VSP, would result in any restorative justice cases being forwarded to the Rutland County group.

The sense of the committee was that since the future was unknown, the town should continue to keep BRAVO active.

Mitch will prepare a report and recommendation for the Select Board after Town Meeting, including Chief Kachajian's perspectives.

4. Follow-Up Training for New/Returning Members

Mitch expressed interest in updating training and tracking when members have completed it. Ongoing training is available in Rutland, though it may require volunteers to also register with the Rutland County restorative justice group. Another training session is expected to be offered in the spring in Rutland.

5. Restorative Justice Volunteer Opportunities in Rutland

There continue to be opportunities to volunteer with the Rutland County group, including both short-term and long-term cases.

6. Standard Item: Update Regarding Possible Work at the Schools

The Rutland County group has conducted training in area schools. Mitch suggested that Janet Pringle follow up with them and explore possible collaboration in local schools.

7. New Case(s) Status

There are no new cases at this time.

8. New / Old / Other Business

Mitch noted that looking ahead to next year, the committee will need someone to step up to chair the BRAVO committee.

9. Date of Next Meeting

April 6, 2026

(No regular meeting in March due to Town Meeting)

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at **7:53 PM**.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Gage

BRAVO Committee