

**Town of Brookline**  
**Surveillance Technology and Military-Type Equipment Study Committee**

Bernard Greene, Chair

**Date:** Apr 30, 2020

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**Committee members present:**

Bernard Greene, Chair

C. Scott Ananian

Lt. Paul Campbell

Susan Howards

Amy Hummel

Sal D'Agostino

Feng Yang (Interim CTO for Brookline, designee for Kevin Stokes)

Casey Hatchett

Igor Muravyov

**Non-committee members present:**

Emiliano Falcon, ACLU

Devon Williams (webex meeting host)

Committee member Ananian agreed to take minutes.

**Discussion:**

1. Deferred approving minutes from 2020-03-05 to incorporate additional information from committee member D'Agostino.
2. Minutes from 2020-04-09 were approved unanimously.
3. Contact tracing practices.
  - a. Hummel asked if there were changes made to this system since the beginning of the COVID crisis.
  - b. Hummel concerned about warnings to officers for COVID positive residences, that this may endanger officers more than treating every contact as potentially COVID-positive.
  - c. Hatchett clarified that they are treating every medical call as a COVID-positive case, although they do try to conserve PPE where the medical call is not at a location of a known positive.
  - d. D'Agostino wonders what the sharing is, and whether proper privacy protocols are followed.
  - e. Hatchett says they "close the circle" on who has access to that information, unless they are responding to a medical call or a domestic dispute, etc. Officers are not given access to that information. Officers and firefighters are only given info via dispatch, and not person-specific information, only that there are/are not known-positive cases present at the location.
  - f. D'Agostino: How many people have access to the computer-aided dispatch system? Basic IT-level concern about privileged access to a sensitive database.

- g. Hatchett: Every access is logged. Scott Wilder may be able to give a better answer.
  - h. Lt. Campbell: Everyone has an individualized username and password, and everyone has a unique set of access permissions. At lowest level, most officers can only see what calls are being assigned.
  - i. Chair Greene suggests comments MAVEN seems like a solid system which has been around for a while, but what's been done more recently for COVID?
  - j. Ananian: Concerned about the opposite, in some sense: MAVEN seems like a small system which worked well for a small # of infrequent cases. Often there are cracks when these systems are scaled up to become critical. Some indications from the presentation: workflow changes noted, a note about username/password management changes, etc. Is this system fit for its new use?
  - k. Ananian: Are there other collaborations with neighbors or the state, ie for contact tracing? Or is all collaboration being done through MAVEN?
  - l. Howards: Should we be partnering with the state effort, "COVID-19 Community Tracing Collaborative"?
  - m. Hatchett: We had a state national guard team in for testing at 615 Heath, CareOne (99 Park), and the Goddard House (165 Chestnut), and she believe the state aided with contact tracing related to that.
  - n. D'Agostino: Understanding the policy around collaborations would be very helpful; what safeguards are being put in place.
4. Discussion of Safe Paths app
- a. D'Agostino: Time to market often takes precedence in the development of these apps. What testing, policy, and quality control have taken place? Ananian: notes that Safe Paths mentions "encryption in the next version" which is worrisome.
  - b. Greene: Price-Waterhouse Coopers has their own system? D'Agostino: they are all collaborating; yet they're driven by a profit motive too.
  - c. Ananian: Practically useless at present until OS-level support is present, perhaps in May (ie iOS collects data only when the screen is on, not when the device is locked in your pocket). Concerned about a "race to the bottom" where different apps compete on the basis of bells and whistles that collect \*more\* information and are more privacy-invasive.
  - d. Hummel: Concerned that the Town not officially endorse these. The Town giving Dr Jett permission to continue investigating could be an unofficial endorsement.
  - e. Greene: Agrees that Town should be careful about seeming to endorse.
  - f. Hummel: Messaging seems misleading, trading on well-known names; also mentioning things like GDPR which don't actually apply in the US.
  - g. Ananian: The way the technology is working, there may not be a real pressing reason to be an early-adopter; the Google/Apple APIs will have access retrospectively to the past 2 weeks of your location history, and don't require the apps to be installed beforehand. (This is also potentially worrisome.)

- h. Greene: Please send me your concerns so I can follow up with the health department.
5. School Department
- a. Hummel: SC is a bit in flux, two new members coming onboard after the elections. PSB did put the brakes on zoom for about a week, but have put some guidelines in place and re-enabled it. Having the STMTE work with the chair of the policy committee was a welcome proposal.
  - b. Greene: Can we begin to compile those red flags and guidance materials?
  - c. Hummel: D'Agostino did a good job at giving the 10,000' view of where we are. I can help look into that.
  - d. Greene: I would like to be able to provide them from the committee with a memo about guidance and things they should be thinking of.
  - e. Ananian: I feel like school policy ought to be divided into two phases. In phase 1, we're still experimenting with tools, trying to get the educational mission accomplished. That's where we still are; we're still not providing an adequate or equitable educational experience to all kids. Once we've mastered the mission, in phase 2 we'd have consolidation around best tools, policies and guidelines, tightening the ship.
  - f. Ananian: Conferencing software landscape is in the midst of huge change right now either wrt security or usability or both. For example, Zoom just named a panel of prominent computer security professionals to review its operations, while Google Meet just rolled out a suite of UX improvements patterned on filling in functionality gaps and bringing it closer to par w/ its competitors. Our guidance should be sensitive to the pace of change, although even simply describing the current changing landscape could be helpful to SC members not following tech trends.
  - g. D'Agostino: The PSB site mentioned that it now meets the current reporting requirements. That's a pretty narrow view of their responsibilities.
  - h. Ananian: If we're still on this footing in the fall, it would be nice to use the summer to firm up lessons learned so we can deploy best practices as teaching resumes in September.

**Follow up items:**

1. Send thoughts on MAVEN to Chair Greene to follow up w/ Dr. Jett
2. Send thoughts on Safe Path app to Chair Greene for follow up w/ health department
3. Send thoughts on D'Agostino's draft to D'Agostino (cc Chair Greene) so we can discuss this next week.
4. Next meeting will be Thursday May 14 at 10:30am.