

**MINUTES OF THE
CRANBURY TOWNSHIP
MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE COMMITTEE ON
DRUG ABUSE AND ALCOHOLISM
November 17, 2020**

TIME AND PLACE OF MEETING

The scheduled meeting of the Cranbury Township Municipal Alliance Committee was held remotely via computer on November 17, 2020 in the Town Hall Offices, located at 23A North Main Street, in Cranbury Township at 3:30 PM.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson, Joann Charwin, called the meeting to order at 3:33 PM.

STATEMENT OF ADEQUATE NOTICE

Pursuant to the Sunshine Law, adequate notice in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act (N.J. S. A. 10:4-6) was provided on December 16, 2019, of this meeting's date, time and place, and the agenda was posted on the Township bulletin board, mailed to those requesting personal notice, and filed with the Municipal Clerk. Notification of remote access meetings, until further notice, was posted on the Township website on April 24, 2020 and sent to the Trenton Times, Home News and Cranbury Press on April 24, 2020.

ROLL CALL

In attendance was Joann Charwin, Krista Santoro, Kristine Fulton, Michael Owens, Erin Santise, Susan Engelbert Dr. Susan Genco and Walter Wright. Member, Hannah Lovaglio was absent. Alternate # Robyn Skeete was also absent.

MINUTES

Motion to approve the October 20, 2020 minutes made by Susan Engelbert, seconded by Dr. Genco. All in favor.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES IN ATTENDANCE

The two newly elected Student Representatives attended the remote meeting. Elisio Moncada and Shaan Zaveri were introduced by Dr. Genco. They were very happy to be a part of the Municipal Alliance and look forward to providing input in creating future events within the school for the student body. Everyone on the Board welcomed them as well as Liaison, Evelyn Spann. Mike Owens was also happy to meet them and feels they play a vital role with helping to spread positive messages throughout the student body. He congratulated them. Ms. Charwin gave student reps an overview that the purpose of the Board was to bring awareness and education both to the student body and community. She invited them to join in and offer input and share ideas about spreading awareness to the student body. She would like to meet with the boys at some point in the future to talk about ideas for the future Jamfest. Ms. Charwin gave a quick overview of the Health and Wellness Fair. She also discussed with them coming up with ideas for the Jamfests and encouraged them to reach out to the students for ideas as those are important functions to create connections for the students.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

None at this time.

NON-MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Board Liaison, Evelyn Spann

POLICE REPORT

Report has been prepared and will be presented to the Township Committee. As outlined in the October MA Meeting, they are seeing an uptick in controlled, dangerous substances found during motor vehicle arrests. Also, they are seeing more alcohol-related DUI's. It appears there are more mental health issues at this time, which can probably be attributed to the current pandemic.

LIAISON REPORT

No report

BUDGET

OLD BUSINESS

Joann gave a briefing on the scavenger hunt which was held in October. There were seven contestants and seven winners. A table was set up at the Methodist Church for Halloween. The Municipal Alliance gave out 450 stress balls to visitors at the table, even adults. Joann would like the Municipal Alliance Members to have them as well. One was delivered to Dr. Genco and she thanked Joann. Also, the Municipal Alliance now has their own Facebook Page. Joann would like to work in tandem with Susan Engelbert on maintaining and updating it and is very excited about it.

NEW BUSINESS

Joann mentioned that prior Chairperson drafted two ordinances involving smoking in public places within the town and no sales of marijuana paraphernalia within the town and asked Evelyn where they stood at this time. Evelyn stated at that time, they were forwarded to then Mayor, Jay Taylor who then forwarded them on to the Township Attorney for review. Attorney at that time, did not think a marijuana ordinance was necessary. Joann asked Evelyn to look into those drafts now that recreational marijuana will be legalized. Evelyn will then work with the Committee on implementing those ordinances. Joann asked Mike how marijuana legalization might affect the town and if there would be licensing for individual recreational use. He didn't feel legalization for public use would be coming through for quite some time. Discussion on dispensing in town, recreational use in town, legally being able to prevent sale and use in town. Discussed adult use as opposed to minors using, as with alcohol. A Committee Member suggested that if recreational marijuana is sold in Cranbury, education to the community and the students is key. Committee Members agreed.

Joann checked out Sea Isle City's Municipal Alliance Board on their website. They have on there, the Surgeon General's advisory on marijuana use and provides a link for additional information. She suggested the Board Members maybe check out that webpage and the links to provide them tools to use with students and parents, as well as with the community.

Joann also mentioned that planning future events is challenging now with the pandemic and asked if anyone had comments on that. None. Joann reached out to Ellen Walker who is a Neurology Professor to see if she might know of a mentor to speak to the students.

There was discussion on utilizing virtual events. Assorted topics could include; vaping, smoking marijuana and alcohol use. Mike thinks virtual events are a good idea. Joann asked Dr. Genco if vaping is a pressing issue in the school and if not, what would be most beneficial for virtual education? Mike thinks all topics would be good.

Joann asked Chief Owens about prescription drug abuse. He hasn't really experienced any issues with that. Dr. Genco hasn't seen that in the school either. Student Council discussed maybe having a Zoom Fest instead of Jamfest. It can be made fun and educational. The idea was well-received. Festival could incorporate important messages. Discussion on possibility of a January Jamfest. Elisio asked about activities for it and said they do Monday surveys with the Student Body for weekly activities and can include Jamfest ideas. Dr. Genco said there is nothing on the calendar on or before January because of social distancing requirements. Spring would be earliest at this point. Mike asked the Student Reps if they need money for any educational student programs. Elisio explained not for virtual activities. Dr. Genco asked Elisio about doing a virtual Zoom assembly program with parents. He thought maybe if there was some sort of entertainment included, such as a comedian for example to make it more engaging. Shaan agreed, as did Dr. Genco.

ONGOING BUSINESS

Health and Wellness Fair (Spring 2021), is up in the air for now. Board can discuss alternate activities for the Spring in the event public gatherings are still prohibited at that time.

Joann inquired about plans for a Career Day Speaker. Kristine reached out to someone who can do virtual speaking. She would need to discuss with the PTO about funding for the Speaker. It is a little early at this time and is a work in progress. Joann also asked about a Boys Chat Group. Is the school still interested with continuing it and are they looking for a replacement for Mr. Mykal. Kristine would be open to see if there are any chat groups available however as of now, there is no one to inquire with and asked the Board if anyone has a recommendation to bring it to the Board's attention. Also, she stated the middle school students are open to the idea of a chat group again. Joann suggested inquiring with the Children's Home Society to see if they have any recommendations/suggestions, as she believes they may be a good resource. Dr. Genco responded they would need to do some research.

Joann mentioned if anyone knows of anybody interested in becoming a member, to let the Board know.

DISCUSSION

Joann recently signed up to watch a power point webinar focusing on substance abuse. Prior to the meeting, she asked the Secretary to forward the link to all Members asking them to please view it at their convenience. She felt it was a great program and very informative.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ADJOURNMENT OF THE MEETING

Motion made at 4:39 pm by Susan Engelbert to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Dr. Susan Genco.

CERTIFICATE OF SECRETARY

I, the undersigned, do hereby certify, that I am the duly appointed Secretary of the Cranbury Township Municipal Alliance Committee on Drug Abuse and Alcoholism and that this document, consisting of three pages, constitutes a true and correct copy of the minutes of the meeting held on October 20, 2020.

Kathy Warnebold, Secretary

Approved Minutes December 15, 2020

