

**MINUTES OF THE
CRANBURY TOWNSHIP
MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE COMMITTEE ON
DRUG ABUSE AND ALCOHOLISM**

December 15, 2020

TIME AND PLACE OF MEETING

The scheduled meeting of the Cranbury Township Municipal Alliance Committee was held remotely via computer on December 15, 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 3:51PM.

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, Kristine Fulton, Susan Engelbert, Dr. Susan Genco and Walter Wright. Members, Erin Santise and Hannah Lovaglio were absent. Alternate #1, Robyn Skeete was absent. Chief Owens had a prior commitment and so was noted as an excused absence. Krista Santoro was noted as an excused absence.

MINUTES

Motion to approve the November 17, 2020 minutes made by Walter Wright, seconded by Dr. Genco. All in favor.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES IN ATTENDANCE

No Student Representatives were present at the meeting. Discussion on having Joann Charwin contact them in the future to notify of upcoming meetings. Dr. Genco thanked Joann and Kristine for meeting with the Student Representatives.

Kristine Fulton reported the representatives sent out a survey to 85 students to see which options they might prefer with respect to virtual gatherings. There was one online game room, which was hosted by adults. It was held on Friday, December 18th from 3:15 pm to 4:15 pm for the middle schoolers and was very well received. It was easy to access the online game room.

A suggestion was made to include socializing in an online game room on a regular basis. It would be hosted by adults. Volunteers of at least two adult hosts for future game room events would be needed. Both Student Representatives were grateful and excited to have an online game room event.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

None at this time.

NON-MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Board Liaison, Evelyn Spann

Guest Speaker, Glenn Johnson

POLICE REPORT

Chief Owens was not able to attend the meeting due to a prior commitment.

LIAISON REPORT

No report

BUDGET

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

ONGOING BUSINESS

DISCUSSION

Guest Speaker, Former Mayor, Glenn Johnson attended the meeting to speak on the ban of the sale of recreational marijuana ordinance that was enacted in Cranbury in March 2018 and to give some insight as to the possibility of recreational marijuana legalization and the implications of recreational marijuana use in Cranbury. Joann Charwin thanked him for coming to the meeting to speak and enlighten the Members with his experience of serving in Municipal Government for Cranbury. Mr. Johnson stated colleagues came to him when he served as Mayor with concerns about possible legalization of recreational marijuana in New Jersey. Glenn is not clear which direction the State is going with regards to individual municipalities making their own rules on recreational marijuana sales. He's not sure if Cranbury's current ordinance would need to be changed or if the State will allow individual town ordinances.

Glenn encouraged the Committee to do their research and look for reputable sources in gathering information on the impact of the sale of recreational marijuana in our town. His concern is that studies done by the marijuana industry could possibly be skewed or provide unrealistic data.

He shared data provided by the National Association of Realtors in the states of Colorado and Washington. Statistics showed a reduction in property values in those communities that legalized in the sale of recreational marijuana. Mr. Johnson skimmed through the research arm of the Department of Justice which showed nothing particularly alarming in their studies. He suggested the Board just do as much research on marijuana and its possible impacts as they can to be prepared.

There is currently a town-wide ban on the sale of recreational marijuana in Cranbury. All bans to sell recreational marijuana in New Jersey that were established before the new law was signed, may become null and void. If the ban to sell recreational marijuana in Cranbury needs to be reestablished as part of the NJ Law, Glenn brought up some ways in which this can be done. There are different options. The Township Committee could continue the town wide ban or do it by township zones. There can be a conditional permitted use only in

zones designated. According to Glenn, under the present ordinance, the medical marijuana facility cannot sell recreational marijuana because we currently have a town-wide ban.

The communities that permit the sale of recreational marijuana will get a share of the sales tax. Glenn also brought up a question about what effect the legalization of recreational marijuana will have on the black market. If the State taxes marijuana at a very high level, this could possibly continue the black market sales.

Evelyn Spann asked Glenn what the Municipal Alliance can do from a governance standpoint. She asked how much jurisdiction the town has with regards to enforcement limits in the Village Commercial zone. Evelyn asked what can the Municipal Alliance do to make their point to the Township Committee. Glenn thought after it goes through the State Senate, a clearer picture will come through on what municipalities can and cannot enforce within their borders. He also mentioned the current Cranbury Ordinance, "No Smoking in Public Parks". He said that it is written so it doesn't refer exclusively to tobacco. Glenn said that he could only hope, if the Town has no say in the legalization matter, that folks would respect the current Township No Smoking in Public Parks Ordinance and not smoke marijuana in public.

Joann thanked Glenn for attending the meeting to speak to the Members and to give his thoughts on the situation. She will forward the studies he provided to all the Members. She knows of sixty communities in New Jersey who currently have recreational marijuana sale bans, but is concerned they could possibly become null and void. Joann wants to gather as much information as possible to learn more about the new recreational marijuana legislation and possible impacts on our community.

On a parting note, Glenn mentioned that he spoke to Governor Murphy in 2018 and asked for New Jersey towns to have permission to make their own decisions allowing them to make their own ordinances for recreational marijuana use and sale.

Members Engelbert, Genco and Fulton had to leave the meeting, leaving only two Members present. Meeting was called to adjourn.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ADJOURNMENT OF THE MEETING

Motion made at 4:30 pm by Susan Engelbert to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Joann Charwin.

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 January 19, 2021

