

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

January 19, 2021

TIME AND PLACE OF MEETING

The scheduled meeting of the Cranbury Township Municipal Alliance Committee was held remotely via computer on January 15, 2021 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 January 8, 2021, 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, Krista Santoro, Mike Owens, Walter Wright. Alternate #1, Robyn Skeete was present. Dr. Genco was noted as an excused absence. Absent were Erin Santise and Hannah Lovaglio. Board Liaison, Dr. Barbara Rogers was present.

MINUTES

Motion to approve the December 15, 2020 minutes made by Susan Engelbert, seconded by Mike Owens. All were in favor.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES IN ATTENDANCE

No Reps were at the meeting.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Kristine Fulton reported that the Zoomfest for the Middle School students was a huge success. It was attended and enjoyed by many of the middle school students. There were different break out rooms, hosted by herself and Joann Charwin. Very fun and interactive and the adults were present. It is a great way to hold a safe event. Ms. Chen took a poll afterwards from the students about their feelings for future Zoomfest events. Consensus is they would like to have more of these. Student Council is probably thinking about planning the next Zoom event already.

Joann thanked Kristine for allowing her to participate at the Zoomfest. Dr. Rogers asked Kristine how they get out information about these remote events. Kristine stated that a Google Form to sign up for different activities went directly to the students which took the place of Jamfest.

NON-MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Dr. Barbara Rogers, Board Liaison
Brendan Hansen, Member of the Public

POLICE REPORT

Joann Charwin mentioned the Police Appreciation Day and thanked Chief Owens and the rest of the Cranbury Police Department. Mike said there are two new Police Officers on the force. One works night shift, the other works day shift. Increase in motor vehicle stops with an increase in marijuana related arrests. Since recreational marijuana is not yet legalized, they still have to arrest for use or possession. Overall, he is very pleased with the two new officers. They are a great addition to the force.

Mike wanted to mention that Det. Greg Pfremer is the Lead Officer in the Cranbury School. Greg is looking into ways to become more active and effective in working with the students.

Joann asked which grade Det. Pfremer will be working with. Mike stated DARE will be geared towards the 5th graders. She also asked if there will be a medical drop off available again. Mike stated drop offs can be made at the Police Station during normal business hours, however, off hours are fine as well. Mike believes information about medication drop off is on the Township website. People drop off quite daily.

LIAISON REPORT

Dr. Rogers was introduced to the Board by Joann. Dr. Rogers was complimented on her progress on creation of the bike network and Joann thanked her for that. Dr. Rogers mentioned the Safe Route to School event and gave a brief overview of the last walk event. She was happy to see Dr. Susan Genco as well as some of the Police Department participated at the event to show support. She was asked about when these Walk to School, events would be planned for. Dr. Rogers said one in the Fall and one in the Spring, however it will probably not be held Spring 2021.

BUDGET

Nothing to discuss.

OLD BUSINESS

Chairperson Charwin wanted to thank all the Board Members for their volunteerism and contributions to the Municipal Alliance Board. It makes a big difference and feels it is very beneficial having this Board with regards to health and drug awareness for the students and the town.

NEW BUSINESS

Joann showed slides of ideas for suggested programs in 2021. She mentioned the annual Health and Wellness Fair. Appears the Fair may not happen again this year, due to the ongoing pandemic. Joann asked Members their thoughts. Susan E. was thinking it's possibly safe having it, since it is an outdoor event which would mean less touching would be involved. She feels people are hungry for interaction and activities. Discussion ensued about the pros and cons of a Health and Wellness Fair this Spring. Joann pointed out that modifications would need to be made if it was decided to be safe enough to have the Fair this Spring and reminded Susan that there is a lot of touching and close contact in the inflatables, for example.

Dr. Rogers asked Mike what his thoughts were, as he is the OEM Coordinator. Mike suggests to hold off a couple of months to see what will transpire as things are ever-evolving and changing. It would be too hard right now to predict. Dr. Rogers asked how long would it take to pull a Health and Wellness Fair together. How much lead time would the Board need? Mike stated that he has seen cases of children in the Cranbury School age range coming up positive and apologized for not being able to give a definitive suggestion at this point.

Joann said she could begin to plan in March. Dr. Rogers commented that the Police Department did a wonderful job for the Halloween trick or treating day and feels they are a great asset for the Health and Wellness Fair.

Mike volunteered to help with the future planning if an event were to occur this Spring. He suggested again to wait a couple of months to see what is going on with the pandemic.

Joann shared a Power Point Presentation regarding the Recreational Marijuana Legislation Information. She explained the history behind the ban on the sale of recreational marijuana in Cranbury, the probability that all previous recreational bans will become null and void as a result of the legislation, and that the law gives municipalities 180 days of enactment of law to pass any new ordinance regarding any new restriction. Joann also explained that the Governor did not sign the recreational marijuana legislation yet because there is a current debate about “clean up” legislation, which refers to penalties for underage marijuana use and possession. Joann showed the Drug Free school Zone Map which is within 1000 feet from the school. This covers a large portion of downtown Main Street. Chief Owens explained that fines for use and/or possession of drugs increases if offense is less than the 1000 ft. zone. Joann shared that currently smoking is prohibited in Cranbury parks, preserves and Township-owned properties. Joann suggested Members refer to the Township Ordinance Book (code book) on the Township Website for information regarding laws in the town.

Joann asked for comments from the Members on what she just shared. Will look at more studies. It would be nice to have someone available to summarize the NJ legislation, such as an attorney who could interpret and speak at one of the Municipal Alliance meetings.

Dr. Rogers asked Chief Owens if the 1000 ft boundary is State wide. He believes it is.

ONGOING BUSINESS

The search for replacement of the Boys Chat Group Speaker, Mr. Mykal will be tabled for the near future.

Joann asked if Members knew of anyone interested in filling in the Alternate #2 position on the Board. She offered that if someone is interested, to refer to the Township website for information and to complete the application for membership.

DISCUSSION

Susan brought up Homecoming idea, which would be contingent on status of pandemic in the Fall. Ideas included hosting a weekend alumni event like the colleges do. She also suggested doing something for the 2020/2021 8th graders who didn't get their experience. Could be a multi-activity weekend. Main event which the Municipal Alliance would sponsor would be for the 9th and 10th grade. Ideas include a formal dance, Jamfest and under a tent as a venue in town. Susan said she would spearhead planning of the event and could reach out to parent volunteers. She could start planning at the end of the school year. Joann thanked Susan for her thoughts and thinks all are great ideas for the future. Thoughts of maybe coordinating or coinciding with Cranbury Day. Dr. Rogers wasn't sure about that as Cranbury Day is done through the Business Association. She hasn't heard anything about that event yet.

Joann is happy the Municipal Alliance is planning so many Fall activities. She thanked everyone for their ideas and Dr. Rogers suggested things for adults too, as a mental health wellness event. Joann detailed there was a mental health day held in October at Heritage Park, hosted by the Municipal Alliance.

Joann asked if anyone was interested in attending Township Committee meetings as representative of the Municipal Alliance. Township Committee does a fantastic job for the community and suggested Members can take turns attending, just to keep the Board current with what is going on in the town. Brief discussion on if there are any ideas for student speaker yet.

Joann shared information about a speaker who would be interested in speaking with the students about the effects of marijuana on the developing brain. Dr. Sara Jane Ward is an Assistant Professor of Pharmacology at the Lewis Katz School at Temple University. She works in the Center for Substance Abuse Research and Department of Pharmacology. She earned her PhD in neuroscience at Wake Forest University, studying the neurobiology of cocaine and heroin addiction and their interactive effects. Her current research focus on the behavioral pharmacological effects of the cannabinoid, serotonin, and opioid receptor systems on neuropathic pain and neuroprotection, learning and memory, and addiction. Joann said that she has experience talking with students.

Robyn Skeete knows a Speaker, Skip Bailey and feels he would be a great person to speak to the students. Mr. Bailey is a former addict as well as a speaker. She met him through her Advisor while at college and feels he is a very good speaker and is empowering. Robyn wants to get his name out there. She feels he may be interested in speaking with the students if approached. Joann thanked Robyn for her endorsement of Mr. Bailey. Joann asked Kristine if the school can pursue having two speakers at the school, Dr. Ward and Mr. Bailey. Kristine feels yes and they could also be beneficial for parents and the community at the same time. Joann mentioned Dr. Ward is open to provide any program.

Kristine was wondering about the two potential speakers and their flexibility with regards to participation in virtual speaking engagements. Joann and Robyn feel they may be able to accommodate different time schedules. Robyn thinks Mr. Bailey probably is acclimated to Zoom meetings. Joann asked Kristine to speak to Dr. Genco to see what she thinks about these two potential student speakers.

Dr. Rogers made the suggestion of hosting a podcast. Kristine thought it is possible to share the two speakers and will speak to Dr. Genco about the possibilities of having them. She asked Joann and Robyn if they can provide the speakers' contact information.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Brendan Hansen asked if the red areas on the map near the park were also drug free zones. Joann indicated the red areas were associated with housing. Joann thanked Brandon, Dr. Rogers and all Members for attending the meeting. Chief Owens addressed Mr. Hansen's earlier question about the different color designations around the town on the drug free map. He clarified that the red lined areas on the Drug Free School Zone Map refer to public housing.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE MEETING

Motion made at 4:40 pm by Susan Engelbert to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mike Owens.

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 January 19, 2021.

Kathy Warnebold, Secretary

Approved Minutes February 16, 2021

