

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

**April 20, 2021**

**TIME AND PLACE OF MEETING**

The regular meeting of the Cranbury Township Municipal Alliance Committee was held by remote access, videoconferencing in response to Covid-19 and the updated Open Public Meeting Act guidelines on April 20, 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 3:35 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 filed on January 8, 2021, of this meeting's date, time and place, and the Agenda was posted on the Township bulletin board, sent to any 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**

Answering present to the Roll Call were, Joann Charwin, Susan Engelbert, Kristine Fulton, Mike Owens, Walter Wright. Dr. Susan Genco, Hannah Lovaglio, Krista Santoro and Erin Santise were absent. Alternate #1, Robyn Skeete was present. Alternate #2, Susan Saravalli was present. Liaison, Dr. Barbara Rogers was present.

**MINUTES**

Joann asked for a Motion to Accept the March Minutes. No change requests noted. Susan Engelbert motioned. Seconded by Walter Wright. All members were in favor.

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES IN ATTENDANCE**

Elisio Moncada

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT**

Elisio was asked by Joann about frequency of the Some Good News Programs. He thinks maybe once every two weeks going forward. None have been done so far. Ms. Fulton thought maybe one per month. Last month there were none. She feels possibly by the end of April they could provide a Public Service Announcement during the Some Good News Program. Discussion about possible recorded message or messages in the announcements. The pre-recordings should be brief, maybe 30 seconds to a minute.

**NON-MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE**

None

**POLICE REPORT**

Chief Owens reported it has been quiet lately. Officers are out more and will remain out in the community more since weather is getting nicer. Their focus will be on keeping the community safe. He would like to discuss L.E.A.D Conference under new business. Joann thanked him and the Police for their hard work.

## **LIAISON REPORT**

Dr. Rogers had no current updates to report on the Cannabis Legislation being reviewed by the Township Committee. The Committee is committed to weighing all of its options with input from information gathered from the State and guidance from the Township Attorney. Township Committee wants to make sure they are looking at all possible impacts on the town and are weighing public input. Conversations are continuing for opting in on different options. She wanted to mention that Chairperson, Joann Charwin is a real advocate as far as the new cannabis law is concerned and thanked her for all of her dedication, research and willingness to learn and educate, as much as possible on the new State legislation for her community and the students. Clean up day was a success. Town saw a great turnout, about 100 people. They retrieved 300 lbs of trash and Dr. Rogers saw Joann there as well. She feels it is important for everyone to listen to all points of view and suggestions moving forward and to work together since this is still a new and moving target also with the State. Joann thanked Dr. Rogers for her input and information.

## **BUDGET**

No changes.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **NEW BUSINESS**

A vote needs to be taken for spending on two Programs: Joann outlined the time and work that Dr. Sara Ward put into preparing on the Student Program as well as Dr. Ward's actual participation as a speaker at the Zoom event. The Board was in agreement of paying Dr. Ward an Honorarium in the amount of \$1,500.00. Also, Joann outlined Mr. Skip Bailey's participation as Panelist at the Parent Program. The Board was in agreement on paying Mr. Bailey an honorarium in the amount of \$500.00. Joann Charwin asked for a Motion from the Board to accept payment in lieu of services to these two speakers. Motion by Susan Engelbert was made. Motion was seconded by Walter Wright. All Board Members responded in agreement to the Motions. Board will therefore, pay the Speakers out of the Student Outreach and Parent Outreach budget line items.

Joann asked when 8<sup>th</sup> grade picnic is usually held and asked Kristine Fulton if she discussed picnic with Dr. Genco yet. Kristine has not spoken to Dr. Genco yet, however the picnic is something she has been thinking about. Joann asked Kristine to describe to the Members what the picnic is about. She explained that typically at the end of the school year, they have a picnic for the 8<sup>th</sup> graders. Princeton High School Freshmen and Sophomores are invited to join the 8<sup>th</sup> graders at Village Park for a picnic. They give the incoming Freshmen an idea of what to expect as a Freshman and talk about drug and alcohol awareness. It is a lay of the land overview. It's a wonderful opportunity to interact with the 8<sup>th</sup> graders by playing games and the teachers hand out prizes such as candy.

Susan Engelbert expressed an interest in helping out if they do the 8<sup>th</sup> grade picnic this year. Usually there is a sub-committee to put the event together. Due to the ongoing pandemic, a suggestion was discussed on possibly doing it less formally this year, even if they can maybe social distance mingle. There was no picnic last year due to the pandemic and Members were questioning amount of people allowed to gather outside at this point and in June. Joann said outdoor limit now at 200 people. Susan asked if they would need to wear masks and social distance. Joann said depends on how parents feel. It would probably be up the individual's comfort level.

Question was asked how many students does the school anticipate would participate. Kristine thought about 130-140 students. She's trying to think of other options, such as a Zoom Fest or having the students prepare a pre-recorded messages so the students still received Freshmen information. They need to keep students safe, so Kristine will speak to Dr. Genco about this.

There was further discussion on the TAG (Teen Advisory Group) Program whereby high school Seniors talk about their experiences and what to expect in high school. They answer questions that the younger students may have.

Joann asked Mike about the L.E.A.D. Conference and to give an overview to the Members on who attends and what content is discussed. Attendees include law enforcement, substance abuse counselors and others in similar fields. It is held in Atlantic City and emphasis is on law enforcement education. It will be held June 27-30<sup>th</sup> this year. Mike also mentioned that information gathered from the Conference would be a good resource for the 2 Municipal Alliance Guest Speakers on aspects of counseling information and national trends on substance use and abuse.

Mike was in contact with Alternate Member, Robyn Skeete pertaining to her interest in attending the L.E.A.D. Conference. He asked Robyn at the meeting if she had signed up for the Conference yet and reserved a hotel room. She hasn't signed up and had questions as to who pays for the attendance fee and hotel room. She discussed fees involved with attending the Conference itself and the room fee. Mike stated she would probably need to put up the funds and request reimbursement after the Conference. Mike feels it would be a great opportunity for Robyn to attend and asked if the Municipal Alliance would consider paying for the Conference registration and hotel room fees for her. Joann thinks it is a great idea as well because it will be a wonderful opportunity for Robyn to gain valuable information, since her training and expertise is in counseling. Joann asked about how the Board would feel about reimbursing her for her attendance. She then asked Mike if he was going in person or virtual, to which he replied he is planning on attending in person.

Joann asked for a Motion to approve an expenditure for Robyn Skeete to attend the L.E.A.D. Conference. It will be held in June for 2 days and Robyn would stay at the Hard Rock Casino/Hotel. Susan Engelbert made Motion to approve the expenditure. Motion was seconded by Walt Wright. All Members responded with Aye. Motion is approved to send Robyn Skeete, Alternate Member #1 to the L.E.A.D. Conference and to reimburse her for expenses incurred at the conference.

Liaison, Dr. Rogers inquired about which line item the funds would come from. Joann will discuss with QPA, Erin Lysy which is the best line item to utilize in this case. Joann is endorsing Ms. Skeete's attendance at the L.E.A.D. as she thinks it is important. Joann asked Dr. Rogers how reimbursement to Board Members might work. Robyn will need to be set up as a Vendor in order to be reimbursed for attending.

Joann shared on her screen, information on a webinar called New Jersey Cares and discussed that Members can sign up for the webinar. She offered to have anyone interested in details (dates and times of the webinar), to email her and she would send the link.

## **ONGOING BUSINESS**

Discussion about the Health and Wellness Fair for 2021 and if it will happen this year. The Members were asked about what their thoughts were. Hard to determine anything since outdoor gathering numbers seem to be changing frequently. Someone asked if the Memorial Day Parade was going to happen. Dr. Rogers thought maybe they would just drive through the town and asked Mike what he thought. He doesn't think it is going to happen this year. At this point, he is not sure. More discussion on ideas for having some type of Health and Wellness Fair outside. Mike was asked his opinion. He feels some people might be off-put by a gathering, even outside. Some probably would enjoy it. Joann doesn't want to put anyone at risk by holding a large gathering, even if it is outdoors, there is still some element of risk. Health and Wellness Fair would have to look very

different than in past years if one is held this year. Risk of transmission was brought up, such as having food, games tables, information tables and other common areas that all people frequently touch during the Fair. Suggestions for maybe offering nature walks or bird walks, fun runs and socially-distanced fitness workouts. Dr. Rogers mentioned there are four nature preserves in Town which would be great for walks. Dr. Rogers also suggested if they do that, to offer advance sign ups for the walks and limit the number of participants on each outing. They could ask Members from the Parks and Environmental Commissions to assist with educational walks.

Joann will speak to Dr. Zurfluh to see about possibility of combining two groups for Parks and Health and Wellness walks. Susan asked about tee shirt contest as it would certainly be a memorable event. Dr. Rogers asked if it could be "green-themed". Township is going for a "Silver Status" with the State. Discussion on holding contest in late May. Joann didn't think there would be enough time to pull it together by then. Joann asked the Member's what they thought of maybe combining Municipal Alliance Health and Wellness Fair and Health Department. All thought it was a good idea. Dr. Rogers also suggested she reach out to Environmental Committee as well. Robyn Skeete volunteered her assistance to Joann.

Recreational Marijuana Update: Joann shared there was a cannabis work session at the April 5<sup>th</sup> Township Committee Zoom Meeting which she attended. A list of questions along with some general information was created to discuss at the Committee Meeting. There were between 90-100 members of the public, of which 16 spoke. All were against Recreational Marijuana in town, whether it be as retail or using it in public. Only one person was in favor. At the remote April 19<sup>th</sup> Committee Meeting, there were between 40-50 people, however, cannabis legislation was not on the Agenda for that meeting. Joann learned the Committee will be speaking to the Township Attorney again in May. Written comments by seventeen people, were received which outlined they are not in favor of any cannabis activities in town. Verbal comments by nine people who were against allowing cannabis in town were made and one person made a verbal comment in support of cannabis in town.

Recreation Board's Stance: Voted against sale and use in parks and preserves. Overall, should not be allowed to be smoked in public, unless for medical use. Persons cannot be approached by law enforcement and asked if they are smoking for medical or recreational use.

Historic Preservation Committee (HPC) is concerned about interest in cannabis manufacturing in the warehouses across Route 130. Concern is there will be more and more warehouses leasing to cannabis growers. Warehouses disturb the vista of what farmlands are left on the north side of Route 130. Dr. Rogers is in contact with the New Jersey Agricultural Board who oversees the growing and harvesting of medical marijuana. She has asked if medical marijuana or cannabis can be prevented from being farmed on farmland preserved properties within Cranbury. The Board has no statement as of yet.

Joann attended the Zoom Meeting of the Board of Health. She shared a report from the CDC relating to the negative effects of marijuana in the general population. Board will review and determine at their next meeting if they want to speak at a Township Committee Meeting on the subject. She also sent related information to the Environmental Commission and asked them to look at it to determine if important enough to bring to the Township Committee's attention as well. Concerns of cannabis cultivation include possible negative effects to the ozone layer, the need to utilize a large amount of electricity to provide ideal conditions for growing cannabis and a certain type of lighting for the warehouse-grown cannabis, HPS (high pressure sodium) lighting is 500 times stronger than normal reading lights and requires a high demand of electrical power to run. The Federal Government will not offer grants on studying the negative effects and impacts of cannabis production.

Joann added the Township has option to opt out of allowing any recreational cannabis retail in Town. If Cranbury opts in, it would need to be in for at least five years. Cannabis would be grandfathered in if, after the five year period, the Town decided to opt out. Mike Owens credited Joann for doing a nice job with all of her hard work and research and it is appreciated. Susan Saravalli thanked Joann for all of her hard work.

#### **DISCUSSION**

Joann asked if anyone had questions or comments. Mike just wanted to mention that DEA Takeback Day is April 24<sup>th</sup>. Members of the community can drop off unused medications at a pre-designated drop off location. It will then be collected and disposed of by the Police Department. Susan Saravalli asked Mike if Police Department can offer more frequent drop off dates. Mike stated Police Department has a drop off at their building for anytime drop offs during the year. They just want to offer to the community, a particular day to let them know they can discard unused medications that they may have been holding onto. Mike was asked if syringes could be dropped off. He stated no because of safety issues and suggested maybe bringing used syringes to their physician's office for disposal.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public was present.

#### **ADJOURNMENT OF THE MEETING**

Joann thanked everyone for attending and appreciates their service and time. She asked for Motion to adjourn. Motion made at 4:48 pm by Susan Engelbert to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Chief Mike Owens. All in favor.

#### **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 April 20, 2021.

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Kathy Warnebold, Secretary

Approved Minutes May 18, 2021