

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

September 21, 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, 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, Mike Owens, Kristine Fulton, Susan Engelbert and Erin Santise. Alternate #1, Robyn Skeete was absent. Alternate #2, Susan Saravalli was absent. Liaison, Dr. Barbara Rogers was absent. Krista Monks, Hannah Lovaglio and Dr. Susan Genco were absent.

MINUTES

Joann asked for a Motion to Accept the June 15th Minutes. Motion was made by Mike Owens to accept June Minutes. Seconded by Erin Santise. All members were in favor of acceptance of the June 15th Minutes as reported.

Joann asked the Board to take a moment of silence to remember Board Member, Walter Wright, who recently passed away. Mr. Wright was a valued member of the Municipal Alliance Committee. She shared that Mr. Wright also served on a variety of other Boards and Committees. Mr. Wright was a former Airforce Veteran. He was a loving husband and father and overall, was a respected member of the community. We send our condolences to the Wright Family.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES IN ATTENDANCE

New Student Representatives, Andrew Wu and Angela Chen attended the meeting. Chairperson Charwin welcomed and introduced the two student representatives for the coming school year. She explained the purpose and intent of the Municipal Alliance Board, is to educate the student body, the community and to provide programs for school students and community involving drug and alcohol education. Purpose of the Board is to get education and resources out into the community on how to live a safe and healthy lifestyle.

Joann asked Kristine Fulton for feedback either from the students or herself for programs and offered to help with anything she could. She asked Kristine to think of ways the Board could help her to get drug information out to the students. Kristine urged the attending Student Representatives to share anything they see or hear with the Municipal Alliance. She also told them that their voices are a valuable asset to the student body as well

as the Municipal Alliance. Joann asked Andrew and Angela if they had any questions. She then suggested they listen to the meeting today to get an idea of what the Municipal Alliance is about.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

None at this time.

NON-MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

None

POLICE REPORT

Mike Owens attended the L.E.A.D. Conference in June. He enjoyed seeing colleagues there. He will be sending one Detective to a Safe School Resource training course. This course is to help the Detective learn techniques in investigating cyber-bullying. Training is useful and very important in this day and age.

The National Night Out event in August was very successful. Turnout from community was great. Overall, it was a good, positive event. It seemed like everyone enjoyed themselves.

Lastly, Mike thanked the two new Student Representatives for their volunteerism and involvement with the Municipal Alliance. He also wanted to express his condolences to Mr. Wright's family for their recent loss.

Joann asked which Detective Mike would be sending for training. Mike had not decided yet. Joann agreed National Night Out was a great success and thanked him for his involvement in the community.

LIAISON REPORT

Liaison, Dr. Rogers was not at the meeting.

BUDGET

Joann put the budget up on the screen for all to see. She went over one of the line items titled, "Teen Board Activities" and pointed out that last year, that line item had a name of "Student Education and Outreach". She stated that she didn't know why that changed. It was noted that because of the pandemic, not as much money allotted for outreach and education programs was used last year as was in previous years.

On another line item, Joann asked the Board if they would consider taking a vote on changing the heading, "Pro Group" to another topic name such as, "Mental Health." There is a balance of ten thousand dollars under that title. If the Board wishes to change the name, would they also consider a vote to keep eight thousand in that line item and maybe take two thousand and put it towards the next Health and Wellness Fair? That is what Joann is proposing. She asked for the Board's thoughts on making those changes. Joann then offered to Kristine Fulton if she had any suggestions on needs for the school that the money could be used for. Ms. Fulton thought that would be helpful to use an umbrella title of Mental Health to that line item. Funds under that title could be used for a lot of different mental health topic programs. Mike Owens agreed with Kristine. Joann likes the idea as well. She wants the budget to reflect support the Municipal Alliance Board can offer. Susan Engelbert agrees and likes that the funds could be used for outreach to the parents as well. She added that the Board is serving the entire community—not just the school and offered a challenge to the Board to come up with ideas for people outside of school. Many people are not aware of the Municipal Alliance and its available programs if they don't have school-age kids.

Joann asked if maybe the line item's new title should be, "Mental Health" – Pandemic Supports for the Community"). Joann asked for a vote to change the line item title to "Mental Health" and keep eight thousand

dollars in it and to use the remaining two thousand dollars for the future Health and Wellness Fair. Motion for those changes to the budget was made by Susan Engelbert. The Motion was seconded by Mike Owens. All favored by answering Aye.

OLD BUSINESS

Susan Engelbert reported the Princeton High School Orientation Picnic was great. Sandwiches came from Teddy's. Susan was very happy they were able to rise to the event, considering they recently had flooding. The students appreciated the sandwiches and refreshments. However, Susan noted picnic wasn't like in the past, likely due to the pandemic. None the less, weather was good and it was a nice day. She met the new Principal, who seemed very upbeat and appreciative of the picnic that was provided. The school definitely counts on the picnic each year and it is an important item from the Municipal Alliance Board. Joann thanked Susan for her participation and work on the picnics each year.

Cranbury Day – Erin Santise was with Joann along with a friend. Erin provided a sign up sheet for the upcoming Mental Health Awareness hikes and supported the kids in signing a Pledge to be drug free. There was a Helpline board poster with contact information and a poster Joann made for Project Medicine Drop. She spoke to the First Aid and learned they do not collect epi pens and syringes. She is trying to find where people can bring these items to safely dispose of them. Erin asked the Board if they knew where people can drop off these items. Susan Engelbert said she didn't know because she unsuccessfully tried to dispose of syringes. Mike Owens mentioned maybe trying a pharmacy. Joann asked CVS, they said no. Susan will look into it more. Lt. Guiseppe Chiara stopped by the Municipal Alliance table on Cranbury Day. He said there will be a "vape device" take back day. It will be on October 23rd.

Joann asked Erin to talk a little about Cranbury Day. There were lots of families that interacted at the table. She was happy to hear parents speaking to their kids about drugs and alcohol. Erin then suggested to the two Student Representatives to think of ideas for other students relating to health, wellness and safety.

Erin reported the nature hike sign up was successful. Parents were excited about the idea and showed a lot of interest. People were signing up for the hike, including people from out of town. During that time, Erin collected contact information to maybe send out future correspondence on future hikes. Erin asked the Board what they thought about out of towners visiting Cranbury to participate in activities. Susan thinks they should be included. All other Members present at the meeting agreed.

Joann suggested to the two student representatives that they reach out to the student body for ideas on future activities focusing on health and wellness education. She asked when the next Student Council Meeting will be taking place. Andrew Wu said next meeting was scheduled for the following day, September 22, 2021.

NEW BUSINESS

Joann showed a slide outlining future and tentative events for 2021-2022. List is as follows:

- *Knock Out Opioid Abuse Day, October 6th – Partnership for a Drug Free NJ Resources
- *Mental Health Awareness Day, October 10th – Hikes in Preserves
- *Red Ribbon Week, October 23-31
- *Halloween Giveaway on Main Street, October 31st
- *Family Fun Scavenger Hunt (Fall 2021)
- *Zoomfest/Jamfest
- *Health & Wellness Fair, May 21, 2022

- *8th Grade Picnic with PHS students answering questions about high school
- *National Drug and Alcohol Facts Week, May?
- *Drug and alcohol education outreach for students and parents (Dr. Sara Ward-Student Program, Skip Bailey-Parent Program)
- *Other ideas

Joann would post information on Facebook about Opioid Abuse Day. Mike Owens is willing to post information on Opioid Abuse Day on Nixle. Joann asked Kristine Fulton about the Red Ribbon event and if she had any information to share. Kristine is still working on it but will follow up by sharing resources and offering activities. They may decide to give a message in the form of a drug-free gift. She also shared that it is nice to see all in the school willing to pledge to be drug free. Joann found bracelets online which would be for all students to wear all school year with the message "Drug Free Looks Like Me". Cost for approximately 500 students, would be around \$305. Joann asked the Board what they thought of that idea. Board felt that since spending was less in the past year, likely due to the pandemic, that they were all were in favor of purchasing the bracelets. Joann asked for a Motion and vote. Motion to purchase the bracelets with a cap of \$500 was made by Mike Owens. Motion was seconded by Susan Engelbert. A roll call vote resulted in all Ayes to the purchase.

Joann showed a screen shot of a Webinar, "Knock Out Opioid Abuse Day". It will be on October 6th and is available to Members to sign up, if interested.

Mike Owens was asked if any plans have been made or finalized about Halloween yet, or if it was going to happen. He said plans are underway but Halloween may be restricted to Main Street as it was last year, due to the ongoing pandemic. Joann mentioned handing out stress balls again this year as she felt it made a very positive impact on people last year. She would like to order stress balls again to give out this year. They would include a drug free message.

Members were asked their thoughts about hosting another Family Fun Scavenger Hunt this year. They decided not to have this activity for this Fall since they have other activities. Joann asked if anyone had ideas of what they may like the Board to offer in the way of activities. She then asked the Student Representatives about in-person activities. Andrew mentioned the 6th and 7th grade dances and that they probably would be spaced out. Kristine pointed out that a limited number of in-person gatherings, is recommended by the State Health Department at this time. The school is compelled to adhere to those recommendations for everyone's safety. Kristine pointed out that it is a fluid situation at this time.

Joann suggested the school have another Zoomfest in place of the Jamfest. She asked the Student Representatives to keep the Board updated on status and to let the Board know of any ideas or suggestions on how Municipal Alliance can support the students.

Joann then closed by thanking everyone for the support, ideas and volunteerism. She also thanked Mr. Wu and Ms. Chen.

ONGOING BUSINESS

DISCUSSION

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 was made by Susan Engelbert to adjourn 4:33 pm. Seconded by Erin Santise. All were 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 5 pages, constitutes a true and correct copy of the minutes of the meeting held on September 21, 2021.

Kathy Warnebold, Secretary

Approved Minutes October 19, 2021