

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

**October 19, 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 3:38 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 present. Alternate #2, Dr. Susan Saravalli was absent. Members, Krista Monks and Dr. Susan Genco were unable to attend the meeting and therefore marked as absent.

**MINUTES**

Joann asked for Motion to Accept the September Minutes. A Motion was made by Susan Engelbert to accept. Motion was seconded by Mike Owens. All in favor answered with Aye.

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES Report**

Angela Chen and Andrew Wu attended the meeting. Joann asked if there were any upcoming events. Andrew reported there was a dance for the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> graders last week to welcome back the students. This Friday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>, they will hold a Halloween dance for the middle school students. Joann is excited to hear about that and asked about any upcoming Jamfest events. Andrew said they have 2 dates set but didn't have them on him to report. Student Body would like to have a 3<sup>rd</sup> Jamfest in the future.

Joann asked Susan Engelbert if she was Liaison for the Jamfests. Susan wasn't aware of these events or the details. However, she believes Penny Ftikas-Giannos, who is head of the PTO has plenty of volunteers ready to work the events. Susan will reach out to Penny to get more information. Joann believes Beth Chen, Student Council Advisor may have more details on Jamfest and other possible events. She then asked Kristine about Jamfest who wasn't sure of any details. She thinks Beth Chen or Amanda Girello, who is filling in for Beth may have more details. Joann asked Andrew to provide the 2 Jamfest dates when he can. Kristine Fulton checked and said November 12<sup>th</sup> is the first PTO/Municipal Alliance-sponsored Jamfest. Second one is scheduled for January 7<sup>th</sup>, as of now. Joann thanked all for their information.

Joann suggested to the Student Reps to consider creating a short video for their Buddy Class. Video message could be to promote information about Red Ribbon Week and give a little informational message about drugs.

She asked what they thought. They thought it was a good idea. Kristine Fulton pointed out that the next Buddy Class is this Thursday which is too soon to prepare a video. Also, Joann suggested maybe a morning announcement introducing themselves as the new Student Representatives and to give a brief overview about Red Ribbon Week.

#### **NON-MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE**

None

#### **POLICE REPORT**

October 23<sup>rd</sup> is Drug Take Back, in which unused medications can be brought to the Police Headquarters and dropped off. Timeframe will be 10:00am to 2:00pm. Department is preparing for Halloween and they will be closing Main Street as they did last year. Road closure will be between 4:00pm and 8:00pm. They will monitor the event as they go along. Police will serve the community as best and as safely as they can.

#### **LIAISON REPORT**

Liaison, Dr. Rogers was not present at the meeting, therefore no report was provided.

#### **BUDGET**

Joann presented the Proposed Budget on the screen for all Members to see and discuss two line item title changes. She asked if anyone had questions on the budget or changing names of two line items. As there were no questions, Joann then asked for a Motion and vote to approve the final draft of the 2022 Budget. Susan Engelbert motioned to approve, seconded by Kristine Fulton. All voted as Aye for approval.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

Joann thanked Erin Santise for her coordination and participation in the nature hikes. Erin handed out drug awareness bracelets.

Opioid Abuse Awareness Day – Joann put messages out on the Municipal Alliance Facebook page regarding statistics and facts surrounding opioid abuse.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

Joann briefly discussed the proposed 2022 Municipal Alliance Meeting Agenda and asked if Members were in agreement with the schedule. All Members agreed with the 2022 Meeting Schedule.

Halloween on Main Street – Joann was going to order stress balls to hand out this year, however they were not available. She ordered mini soccer balls with messages promoting healthy lifestyles on them. Joann believes the students should like them. She also has left over cups, bookmarks and different bracelets, just to hand out and get out the message about drug and health awareness on Halloween.

Red Ribbon Week – Joann brought the bracelets/bands to Kristine Fulton who saw the theme message on the bracelets for this year. Kristine thanked Joann for providing them and is looking forward to giving them out next week. Kristine also mentioned New Jersey School Violence Week is coming up and will be tied together for the Buddy Classes. Kindergarten through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade will be asked to draw a picture depicting what health and happiness means to them. They will then present their drawings to the upper grades, who will then reciprocate with a message that will show ideas on how the lower grades can be happy, healthy and safe.

Kristine mentioned that there are a few activities planned going forward. The student representatives will be encouraged to write a summary and goals through working with the Municipal Alliance. These messages can be delivered through one of the school's morning announcements. Theme Day is October 27<sup>th</sup>, whereas the staff

will be encouraged to wear red and pass out the red bands and ask the lower grade students to sign a drug free Pledge. The upper grades will provide messages on how they will be drug-free and will also sign a Pledge and share helpful resources with teachers to pass on to the lower grades. Joann thanked Kristine and the Student Representatives for everything they are doing for Red Ribbon Week and School Violence Prevention Week.

Joann mentioned that on Cranbury Day, several people asked what they could do to dispose of epi-pens and used syringes. Susan Engelbert researched and found there is a program run by Robert Wood Johnson Hospital. There is a specific department at the east side entrance that collects these products. People can drop off their sealed container with their name on it. Susan has some items that she needs to dispose of and will try it herself and if successful, will post the link on the Municipal Alliance Facebook page. Joann reached out to the people who were inquiring on Cranbury Day with that information. She thanked Susan for her helpful research and information.

Health and Wellness Fair – Joann wanted to mention two things she has begun working on for next year's Fair. She reached out to Pedal Powered Smoothies vendor. It is a little early but she wanted to see if they would be interested in providing their services. Company advised they may not be providing that service anymore, due to the pandemic. Joann would have asked the PTO to pay for them. Joann also reached out to Robert Wood Johnson Barnabas Health about having their health van attend. That is thus far what she has done.

Joann suggested up to four people can be assembled from the Municipal Alliance for a committee to work with Joann on planning of 2022 Health and Wellness Fair. She would need help with planning and coordinating the Fair. She asked the Members to think about joining and they will all discuss at next meeting.

Joann also wanted to mention that Cranbury will be celebrating its upcoming 325<sup>th</sup> anniversary and Board Liaison, Dr. Barbara Rogers asked Joann if the Board could somehow tie in Health and Wellness Fair information with that event. Joann asked the Members if there were other events they would like to tie into. She asked the Members to think about it.

New Neighbor Reception – Joann received a call from a representative at the library who invited Joann to provide information about the Municipal Alliance to new neighbors. Joann set up a table. Two neighbors just started an organization which gives grants to caregivers of mental health patients. One grant is for \$500.00 of caregivers of family members to cover expenses related to their care. There is a website that the Municipal Alliance Secretary can forward to the Board Members. Susan asked if program is eligible only for New Jersey caregivers. Joann will find out who is eligible to receive a grant.

Joann would like to include some items in the current Municipal Alliance Mission Statement on the Township website. She is proposing wording additions to the first paragraph to include; "To promote positive mental health and well-being". She asked Members what they thought. Mike Owens thought it was a good addition. Members discussed the addition and voted on requesting a change to the Mission Statement. All voted in Aye.

Sasha Weinstein is the PTO Representative for Cranbury School out of Princeton High School reached out to Joann to let her know of a possibility of three cannabis stores potentially opening up in Princeton. Ms. Weinstein wasn't sure if they would be in a school zone. Joann said it is important for the Municipal Alliance to know what is potentially going on in Princeton, with regards to possible cannabis store openings. Mike Owens checked and verified that Princeton, like Cranbury, opted out of considering retail cannabis sales on July 19, 2021. Joann expressed concern if Princeton opting out was only temporary and will they change their mind in the future.

Search for new Members – Robyn Skeete, Alternate #1 has expressed an interest in becoming a regular Member and will be recommended by Joann to the Mayor for appointment. Joann reached out to a spiritual leader at Chinmaya Mission, who wasn't interested but who may have someone that would be. Joann asked the Members if they knew anyone who may be interested in becoming a Member.

#### **ONGOING BUSINESS**

#### **DISCUSSION**

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public was present.

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

Joann asked for Motion to adjourn meeting. Motion was made by Susan Engelbert to adjourn 4:35 pm. Seconded by 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 4 pages, constitutes a true and correct copy of the minutes of the meeting held on October 19, 2021.

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Kathy Warnebold, Secretary

Approved Minutes November 16, 2021