

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

November 16, 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, Susan Engelbert, Krista Monks, Erin Santise and Robyn Skeete. Dr. Susan Genco was unable to attend as was Kristine Fulton. Alternate #1, Dr. Susan Saravalli was present. Alternate #2, position is vacant. Liaison, Dr. Barbara Rogers was present.

MINUTES

Joann asked for Motion to Accept the October Minutes. A Motion was made by Susan Engelbert to accept. Motion was seconded by Dr. Saravalli. All in favor.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES REPORT

Joann asked Angela and Andrew if any plans for dances or future Jamfest are being discussed with Student Council. Andrew said he shared an idea with Student Council about maybe having a food truck event where students could go to a particular area to gather, socialize and enjoy lunch on a half day schedule. It was suggested this idea be brought to the school administration for their ideas on it. Andrew was asked if the idea of a food truck event would be for the community or students only. He thought as a start, to just have students attend, if it came to fruition. He said it was just an idea, it hadn't been discussed at length, nor have any plans been implemented. Andrew asked if maybe the Municipal Alliance Board would help support costs or do a fundraiser to offset any food truck rental. Idea was to have trucks that create healthy food attend. Joann looked into securing food trucks last year and it was difficult. She thought maybe since Zinna's came to the Police Night Out event, maybe they would be receptive to attend an event at the school. Discussion continued among Board and Student Reps regarding costs involved, availability of trucks and types of food these vendor trucks would supply. Erin added that she looked into having a food truck come to her office a few years ago. What she discovered was each food truck business runs differently but that they require payment for attendance up front. Her impression was that if the potential for good sales was present, the more likely the food truck would want to attend a function.

Joann asked if the Student Representatives had any other activity planning ongoing with the Student Council. Andrew said not at this time. It is early for 2022 planning, considering the pandemic protocols. Erin asked Angela and Andrew when they would like to have a gathering with a food truck. Angela said in the Spring. Joann offered to assist by researching food truck availability and costs. Brief discussion about combining the Health and Wellness Fair with a student gathering event. Joann also asked the Members if they would be interested in volunteering to do research or help out on future events. Andrew stated that Dr. Genco would need to give permission to have a future event with food trucks at the school. There was further discussion about needing chaperones and times the event would be held at. Andrew repeated that a student gathering with a food truck is just an idea for a future event. Question about what type of food truck should be researched. Consensus was a healthier food selection truck would probably be harder to secure. Andrew suggested pizza, tacos...something easy for the food truck to provide. Question from Erin about what the cost of the truck would be. Joann would need to look at budget. Mike said the Police Department gives grants and was asked if maybe the school could apply for a grant, if this type of function was approved by the school. Mike said the school could apply for a grant. All agreed to keep the possibility open and to discuss the subject in future meetings.

Dr. Saravalli asked if insurance would be required and would chaperones or parents be required to attend. Joann asked Andrew and Angela to ask Dr. Genco if that would be a possibility and also mentioned that since the dance and Jamfest had to be canceled, this type gathering may be possible. Joann asked the students if January Jamfest was still on. Students are not sure as it depends on State Health guidelines in early 2022.

Angela announced there is a new future event at the school. It will be called Ice Cream Friday, which will be the last Friday of the month and held during lunchtime. School is going to try it out with the 7th and 8th graders first to see if it looks successful. If so, it will then be open to all grades. Joann asked where funding would be coming from. Angela pointed out that Student Council currently has some funds to support this event due to the 6th grade dance being canceled. Angela wanted to ask the Board if needed in the future, would it be able to financially assist. Joann expressed her support to provide future funds if needed, as did Susan and Mike supported it as well. Joann expressed her excitement for all the good ideas from the Student Council for future events.

NON-MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Mrs. Bala, a Representative from the Chinmaya Mission in Cranbury was present to observe the meeting.

POLICE REPORT

Officers are out and busy with motor vehicle incidents and crashes. Heavy enforcement will commence with the holiday season. Mike pointed out that the officers are working hard. Joann asked if a lot of the traffic incidences involve substance abuse. Mike thought yes, but no specific substances and pointed out that DUI's escalate right before the Thanksgiving holiday. Mike reiterated there will be extra heavy enforcement around the holiday season, as always.

LIAISON REPORT

None

BUDGET

OLD BUSINESS

Halloween – Joann and her husband set up a table to provide handouts to the trick-or-treaters. She reported that she brought and handed out 100 mini soccer balls within the first hour of setting up. She had extra positive

message handouts from past events, such as tattoos, cups, bookmarks and bracelets. Kids were excited and it was good the Municipal Alliance was out there to spread a positive message.

Red Ribbon Week - Joann asked Krista how the week went. Krista reported it went great and that it was included in the Buddy classes. Overview in class was how kids could be happy, healthy and safe. On Wednesday, students and staff were encouraged to wear red as a message of solidarity. Krista said Andrew made an announcement and spread awareness. It was a great week and very successful. Joann was happy they had fun and were spreading positive messages. She thanked Krista and Kristine for their participation in helping the students to promote health and happiness. Krista thanked Joann and the Board for providing the positive messages bracelets. Students really liked them.

November Jamfest – Canceled due to state health recommendations.

January Jamfest – Susan Engelbert explained that Jamfest is a recreational evening event in place of a school dance for the middle schoolers. Also, it has always been a Municipal Alliance-sponsored event. PTO provides the manpower and organization behind it. Up until now, the gaming equipment which is owned by the Municipal Alliance has been stored by New World Van Lines for no charge and they would charge the Municipal Alliance \$200 to deliver the equipment to the school. This was twice a year. Susan explained that recently, New World Van Lines expressed to her that due to space constraints, they will no longer be able to store the equipment after this year. Susan wanted to talk about other storage options and pointed out that the Board needs to figure out where to store the equipment. Is there room in the school? Equipment is large and heavy and consists of 3 foosball tables and 3 air hockey tables.

Susan asked Mayor Ferrante if there would possibly be room in the new library, to which he replied no. She will see if the school's pole barn has any room and/or ask New World Van Lines if they could continue to store equipment for a fair market price. Mike said he will check to see if police headquarters has room to accommodate the storage of the equipment. Susan said they need to come up with a plan. Joann thanked Susan for her information and suggestions.

Dr. Rogers mentioned she reached out to Dr. Genco about having a bicycle day in town since International Walk and Bicycle Day is coming up. Township Committee is discussing a Mayor's Wellness Walk day, maybe in April. She is trying to combine that event with Cranbury's 325th Anniversary. Idea would be to have kids see historic items that she would ask the Historic Society to display. It would be a good opportunity for the kids to learn about the town in its early years.

Joann announced that she recently joined the Parks Committee and that they are having 3 wind sculptures installed in Heritage Park sometime in December. She explained that Sally O'Grady, who is the Parks Commission Chair asked if the Municipal Alliance can participate in celebration at the installation of the sculptures. Joann asked if the Members would be interested in participating. She also asked Angela and Andrew if they could mention this celebration at their December Student Council Meeting to see if the students would like to attend. Susan Engelbert thought maybe the choir could attend and perform. Joann thought that was a good idea and asked Krista if she could look into that to see if choir would be interested. Krista will ask the Music Department. Joann asked Krista to let her know if the Music Department would be interested and would like to coordinate with Municipal Alliance. Susan suggested that maybe donuts and cider or hot chocolate could be provided by the Municipal Alliance. Joann thought that was a good idea. Joann asked how much it would be to provide donuts, cider or hot chocolate. Susan pointed out that the November Jamfest and Dance didn't happen and each event gets \$200 from the Board that totals \$400 which wasn't spent. Susan also offered her coffee urn and to provide the hot chocolate. She didn't think it would be much cost for

refreshments and asked the Board if they would approve a \$400 limit. Joann suggested to set a monetary limit of \$500 and asked for a Motion to approve. Motion was made by Susan Engelbert to approve the expenditure. Motion was Seconded by Erin Santise. All members responded Aye to the vote. Joann thanked the Members and said that Parks Committee would like all the Committees to be involved in the celebration.

NEW BUSINESS

Princeton Cannabis Task Force Recommendations - Joann wanted to briefly discuss cannabis selling in Princeton. She reminded everyone that Sasha Weinstein previously reached out to let her know that Princeton was having a township meeting to consider opting in on retail cannabis sales and allowing dispensaries. Joann did attend their meeting which was put together by the Princeton Cannabis Task Force. She reported to the Municipal Alliance about what she learned regarding how many potential retail locations and possible dispensaries they are considering. Princeton is considering five specific sites around town for retail locations.

Joann reported that Princeton didn't want retail sales in the Princeton Shopping Center. They are considering the distance from schools. Drug Free School Zones are one thousand feet from schools and the town wants same as the current alcohol zone distance which is 200 feet. Mike stated the official school zone distance is one thousand feet from schools. Mike added there is no distance requirements for churches, parks or playgrounds at this time.

Susan thanked Joann for attending Princeton's meeting and passing on valuable information to the Members. She added it is important to communicate that information to Cranbury. Joann can make Dr. Genco aware so she can inform the Board of Education.

Joann then asked the Board for any thoughts or questions on the Princeton Report.

ONGOING BUSINESS

Heath and Wellness Fair – Joann asked Krista to speak to Dr. Genco to see if the fair can be held on school grounds.

New Member Search – Two positions currently available; one for Member, one for Alternate. Joann asked Board if anyone knows of anybody who may be interested, to please direct them to the Township website under Clerk's Department to complete a Volunteer Membership Application.

Joann asked if any questions or comments from the Members or Student Representatives.

DISCUSSION

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ADJOURNMENT OF THE MEETING

Joann asked for Motion to adjourn meeting. Motion was made by Susan Engelbert to adjourn 4:40 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 5 pages, constitutes a true and correct copy of the minutes of the meeting held on November 16, 2021.

Kathy Warnebold, Secretary

Approved Minutes December 21, 2021