

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

**April 19, 2022**

**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 3:32 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 5, 2022, 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, Kristine Fulton, Krista Monks, Mike Owens, Erin Santise, Dr. Susan Genco Alternate #1 Anjali Joshi was present as was Alternate #2 Sasha Weinstein. Robyn Skeet was absent. Student Representatives, Andrew Wong and Angela Wu were present. Liaison, Evelyn Spann was absent.

**MINUTES**

Joann asked for Motion to Accept the March Minutes. Motion was made by Kristine Fulton to accept. Motion was seconded by Krista Monks. All Members were in favor, answering Aye.

**NON-MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE**

None

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES REPORT**

- **Jamfest Update:** Joann asked if Jamfest will be rescheduled. Representatives don't think at this point in the year, there would be time to have one. Dr. Genco echoed similarly. There are many activities planned for end of year and there probably will be no time for a Jamfest. Dr. Genco's sentiments were hopefully, this will be the last time a Jamfest will need to be canceled or postponed.
- **National Drug and Alcohol Facts Week Presentation:** Andrew reported he felt the presentation went well. They received good feedback from student council. Joann asked to hear what type of feedback did he and Angela get. Angela reported the slide presentation was well-liked. Dr. Genco added she heard nothing but positive feedback. Joann thanked Andrew and Angela and asked how presentation was done. Andrew said access to the presentation was via Zoom and it was also recorded.
- **Food Truck Event:** Joann asked the Student Representatives if they have discussed or made plans with the student council about reserving a food truck on a half school day at end of the year. Yes, there was some discussion about it, Angela and Andrew would want to have a food truck which offers healthy options. Joann asked dr. Genco if there was a possibility of having a food truck, if there would be time

on one of the half days at the end of the school year. Dr. Genco feels yes, it is possible however, more planning would need to be done and soon. Joann asked if they have food on their Field Day. Dr. Genco said no, not on Field Days. She told Joann she would need for Joann and the Student Reps to decide on a possible date, so Dr. Genco could lock it in on the school calendar. Joann asked about date availability. Dr. Genco would need to refer to the school calendar to see possible dates and get back to Joann. Joann asked Andrew and Angela how far into planning they are. Andrew said so far, they have all agreed to have a food truck on a half school day. Joann suggested and opened discussion about maybe having a pizza truck and an ice cream truck. Joann also mentioned there will be a crepe' cart at the Health and Wellness Fair, which would be good to consider to have at the school for a food truck event. The crepe' vendor offers sweet and savory crepes. Dr. Genco thought pizza and ice cream trucks would be a nice idea.

Erin Santise asked Joann if there is a dollar amount the Municipal Alliance would contribute towards the food trucks. Joann didn't think there would need to be a contribution from the Board just that the Municipal Alliance could assist to facilitate having food trucks as a treat for the students. Erin pointed out that in her experience, food trucks probably won't come out without some sort of minimum monetary amount guarantee. All agreed on that point. Joann asked Dr. Genco about how many students would be there. Dr. Genco responded about 500 students and asked Joann if the intention of the food trucks would be for school spirit. Joann suggested that they could tie a message to the food truck event about drug prevention as well as it being a social event. Angela felt a better message could be a focus more on health and wellness and not drug prevention. Joann asked Angela and Andrew to get together on planning this activity so all the students could be informed well in advance.

Mike suggested contributing \$200-\$250 per truck to reserve them. Erin felt a more appropriate amount would be \$500 per truck based on her past experiences with food trucks. It needs to be worth it for them to come out to an event.

Joann called for a vote on Municipal Alliance contributing \$500.00 per truck for a food truck event, for an aggregate of \$1,000.00 for two trucks. Roll call vote resulting in Ayes: Erin Santise, Dr. Susan Genco, Kristine Fulton, Krista Monks, Mike Owens and Joann Charwin. There were no Nays to the vote.

Anjali Joshi suggested an end of year party. Dr. Genco in looking at the events calendar states there are a lot of activities scheduled. It would be difficult to try to add more, but potentially the 14<sup>th</sup> or 15<sup>th</sup> of June may work. She will confirm and report back to the Board.

#### **LIAISON REPORT**

None

#### **POLICE REPORT**

Chief Owens reported his department is continuing with speed enforcement patrols throughout town. He didn't have anything to report with relation to drug activity. He concluded that next month, they will be offering their annual "Drug Take Back" event.

#### **BUDGET**

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

Discussed earlier under Student Representative Report topics.

## NEW BUSINESS

- **8<sup>th</sup> Grade/PHS Picnic:** Joann asked if any activities such as the 8<sup>th</sup> grade picnic or any transitional activities were planned that would be sponsored by the Municipal Alliance. Kristine shared no planning has begun yet. She could brainstorm and reach out to Princeton High School to see if any former Cranbury students would be interested in meeting with the incoming students at Village Park in June. Joann said we could discuss at next month's meeting. Dr. Genco added that she and Kristine were thinking about speaking to the Director of Student Services at Princeton High School because they are in the process of creating different events for the high school students next year. She had explained to the Director what they have done in the past and how they were looking for more of a partnership. Dr. Genco will reach out to them before reporting back to the Board to see if Princeton High School is looking to do anything this year that is different.

## ONGOING BUSINESS

- **Speaker for Students and Parents on Vaping:** Joann confirmed Monday, May 16<sup>th</sup> will be the vaping program for 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders and vaping for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders will be in the afternoon and there will be an evening assembly for parents. On Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> there will be a bullying and respect program for the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders in the morning. Joann has been the liaison between Robert Hackenson and school. She thinks it would be better for the school to interact with him directly. School may have better points relating to bullying and respect and specific times for him. Asked for best contact person in the school to correspond with Mr. Hackenson. Dr. Genco stated it is a very busy time with testing however, maybe Krista could figure out content. As far as scheduling, he could talk to Dr. Genco or Michelle. Joann didn't give him specific times just am or pm so far. Joann asked Dr. Genco for times on parent assembly would it begin at 7:00 pm? What time is good? Dr. Genco says between 6 -7 is good start time for a parent assembly. Joann will be in touch with Mr. Hackenson.
- **Speaker on Talking to Kids on Pandemic Stress:** Joann reported that program will not be offered as Dr. Kennedy-Moore has decided to focus her efforts in another area. She is doing a series of webinars, charging parents and donating money to a charity.
- **Additional Ideas to Promote Mental Health and Well-being for the Community:** Joann met with Robyn they are looking into programs provided by Princeton Health Community Wellness. Joann asked Sasha to talk about Matt Bellace, who is a Princeton student father, psychologist, public speaker and part time comedian. Specializes in educating public in different age groups. Has a lot of experience working with clients with drug addiction and clients who take alcohol and use cannabis. Educates older population on possible dangers of mixing maintenance medications while using cannabis. Sasha likes his messages. Joann asked the Members their thoughts on asking Mr. Bellace to offer webinars on mixing medication and cannabis for the 55+ community. Mike thought it was a good idea, the Municipal Alliance should serve all areas of the community. He felt that some thought would need to go into creatively marketing these webinars. Erin thinks Mr. Bellace would be an interesting speaker to have for the 55+ community.

Sasha reported his fee is \$1,000.00 for one webinar with a Q & A session after. She feels he would be a great speaker for the 55+ community, especially now since cannabis is being legalized. Sasha also expressed concerns that cannabis nowadays is much stronger than in decades past and can be very dangerous for the older population. This is especially true if people are on certain maintenance medications. Joann asked Sasha to reach out to Mr. Bellace to see if maybe he would be available in the fall and to gather more information about his programs.

- **Health and Wellness Fair:** Joann assembled a sub-committee comprised of 4 Municipal Alliance members and Bala Mukkamala from the Chinmaya Mission. Planning is going well and Joann was excited to show the members a list of many activities which will be available on the day of the Fair. She

asked if anyone had questions. Dr. Genco liked the lineup of activities and she also took the opportunity to give Joann and all the members a heads' up that the school is beginning construction on the gym addition. In planning the location of activities, Dr. Genco conveyed to Joann that she will need to be mindful of making sure activities are well away from perimeter of construction.

Joann asked Angela and Andrew to put information together regarding the tee shirt contest for the fair so they can do an announcement and pass the information on to the student body.

- **Princeton High School Update:** Joann asked Sasha if she had anything to report about Princeton High School. Through the PTO, they are trying to get parents of the incoming students more familiar. On Wednesday evening a Zoom meeting for any transfer families, new families will be held. On May 4<sup>th</sup> they will do a parent panel for the first time at the school on the front lawn. They invited the PTO's of the Cranbury Middle School, Princeton Middle School as well as the Princeton Charter School to help Princeton PTO familiarize rising parents and to share what is going on at Princeton High School. Hopefully, there will be a good turnout of parents. Joann is glad to hear that parents can offer words of wisdom to parents of incoming students. Sasha added PTO is there to help parents and students and the school. Principal and Guidance are doing a lot to help with seniors on prom and all activities, like Cranbury School.
- **Recreational Marijuana Legislation Update:** Joann shared that the New Jersey Cannabis Regulatory Commission will be issuing 13 licenses for retail dispensaries which will be opening on April 21st, and 7 alternate treatment facilities. To see where they are going, log onto [nj.gov/cannabis/](https://nj.gov/cannabis/). It lists where dispensaries will be.

Princeton Cannabis Task Force meeting was canceled for April 21<sup>st</sup>. May 19<sup>th</sup> is their next meeting. Joann wanted to share she attended the Princeton Town Council Zoom meeting and they had a special meeting on March 29, a presentation and discussion on cannabis. They had some professionals speak in favor for retail stores and some against. Then they had public comment. There were up to 350 people who attended the Zoom. The meeting went on for 4 hours with the bulk of it being public comment. If Municipal Alliance Members want to watch the video, go to Princeton Township Council Website.

Joann thanked the members for attending the meeting.

## **DISCUSSION**

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

### **ADJOURNMENT OF THE MEETING**

Motion was made by Dr. Susan Genco to adjourn the meeting at 4:36 pm. Motion was seconded by Chief Mike Owens. 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 4 pages, constitutes a true and correct copy of the minutes of the meeting held on April 19, 2022.

---

Kathy Warnebold, Secretary

Approved Minutes April 19, 2022

