

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

May 17, 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 3:31 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, Krista Monks, Mike Owens, Robyn Skeete Alternate #2, Sasha Weinstein. Dr. Genco joined the meeting at 3:39. Members, Kristine Fulton, Erin Santise and Alternate #1, Anjali Joshi were absent. Student Representatives, Andrew Wong and Angela Wu were present.

MINUTES

Joann asked for Motion to Accept the April Minutes. Motion was made by Chief Owens to accept. Motion was seconded by Krista Monks. All attending Members in favor.

NON-MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Ms. Gaelle Dennerly joined the meeting by telephone at 3:45 pm.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES REPORT

Andrew Wu signed into the meeting at 3:37 pm. Joann reported to the Board that due to pre-planned activities for the students at the end of the school year, there was unfortunately not enough time to hold a food truck event. Andrew stated he heard the same. Andrew shared students are getting excited about the upcoming Health and Wellness Fair.

LIAISON REPORT

Ms. Spann signed onto the meeting at 3:47 pm. She shared the Township Committee has their next scheduled meeting on Monday, May 23, 2022. The Committee will be discussing Land Use. Joann asked her if she shared information regarding the upcoming Health and Wellness Fair. Ms. Spann replied her report to the Committee at last weeks' meeting was brief. She did report, in part about the Fair and shared the date of the event but didn't go into details. Also, Ms. Spann discussed EDAC's support of the Municipal Alliance and was curious how they can help with advertising the Fair. Joann shared she has a sign that she will be posting out in the town. Joann is hopeful they will have a good turnout and thanked Ms. Spann for her report. Joann wanted to add that she contacted EDAC and reported they offered to help with advertising for the Health and Wellness Fair. Ms.

Delphina Georges created a beautiful flyer about the fair. Ms. Georges works with different EDAC Committees to advertise to different groups. She obtained permission from the Town to place it at the corner of Main Street and Schoolhouse Lane so it would have good visibility.

POLICE REPORT

Chief Owens reported his department is all set for the Health and Wellness Fair and was happy to share that his department is working with the County to have the helicopter again at the Fair. His officers are out patrolling and conducting motor vehicle enforcement and issuing fines. Chief Owens also shared he participated on a bicycle ride for National Law Enforcement Week. The ride started in New York and went all the way down to Washington, DC. He said it was a successful ride and he enjoyed participating.

BUDGET

OLD BUSINESS

- **Vaping Assemblies** - Joann asked if Andrew enjoyed the vaping presentation from Mr. Hackenson. Andrew thought the program was very interesting, informative, fun and offered a lot of interaction with the students. Joann attended the Zoom program for the parents on the previous evening. Due to the severe weather forecast, all after-school activities were canceled. Mr. Hackenson decided to provide his parent presentation from his hotel room via a pre-recorded Zoom session. He was there in real time to answer parent's questions. The presentation showed the dangerous chemicals contained in vaping liquids. He gave lots of suggestions and ideas for coping with stress. She thought Mr. Hackenson was very engaged and reported that 18 parents were present for the Zoom presentation.

Joann described Mr. Hackenson's program which outlines the history of vaping and how initially vaping was intended as a tool for folks to help them quit smoking and that nicotine is still in vaping liquid. Companies target younger people with very misleading information. Companies don't refer to it as smoking to the young people, they use the term "vape". Joann went on to say Mr. Hackenson talked about different vaping devices, and how vaping impacts the younger brain and that nicotine is very addictive on the younger brain. Studies have shown that the younger the age that people begin to use nicotine, the more likely they are to be addicted to drugs in the future. Also, it can have tremendous negative health impacts from the other chemicals in the liquid. He gave great tips to parents. Joann felt he was very down to earth. Gave good ideas for topics for parents to talk to their kids about as well as ideas for different excuses for declining offers to vape. Also, he gave examples to the parents for role play. In addition, Mr. Hackenson gave ways to deal with stress which is not necessarily a bad thing as everyone has stress in their life. It's how you deal with stress that is important. Some examples of dealing with stress are meditating and exercise.

Joann said several Municipal Alliance Members attended the parent program and asked what their thoughts were.

Sasha thought Mr. Hackenson offered a very impressive program. Joann shared Mr. Hackenson's recordings will be available for 30 days when he releases them. Sasha asked when people can access the recordings. Dr. Genco will let Joann know when the recordings are available, so Joann can share the link for anyone interested to access. Dr. Genco really liked the Bully/Respect program he provided for the 3-5 grades. She wasn't able to see the Middle School Vaping program. But thought the program for the younger students was excellent. She shared the 3-5 graders asked very good questions and that he was very relevant and gave practical strategies and it was great to give the younger students tools.

Joann added that for the 3-5 graders, that presentation was on bullying and respect. School had 4 different programs.

Ms. Monks thought Mr. Hackenson did a great job with the students. She was at all programs except parents. He was very engaging They seemed really interested and she really liked his messages, especially his Managing Stress part of the presentation through magic. A couple of Mr. Hackenson's messages really stood out to her. One was that now is the time for students to become good at developing skills to manage stress because it will be part of all our lives at some time or another. As far as vaping, he was talking about if you have nothing to gain and everything to lose, you flip the coin. She thought that message was very impactful.

Ms. Skeete asked Joann about follow up for parents after the 30 days if they have future questions. Joann offered they could send her an email requesting information and she could reach out to Mr. Hackenson and pass on any questions. She asked if in the future there was a way to communicate with Mr. Hackenson. Joann said the contract for these programs is up and suggested that maybe people can email her in the future and she could maybe reach out to Mr. Hackenson to see if he could answer questions.

NEW BUSINESS

- **8th Grade Picnic** – Joann asked Dr. Genco if any transition activities were planned for the picnic. Dr. Genco doesn't have any updates from Ms. Fulton yet. She will follow up with Ms. Fulton.

ONGOING BUSINESS

- **Additional Ideas to Promote Mental Health and Well-being for the Community** – Joann asked the Board to table this discussion to the June meeting. She asked the Members to brainstorm and see if they can come up with ideas and for additional activities for mental health to discuss in June.
- **Health and Wellness Fair** – Joann asked the Members if they had any questions about the upcoming fair. She then shared the Zoom screen to share the map where activities will be located, as well as a list of activities available at the fair.

Joann gave an update on having the crepe' cart at the fair. She explained there are many, many steps involved in having a food vendor at an event and was not aware all that is involved in having a food vendor at events.

Joann gave announcements that she created to the Student Reps, Andrew and Angela to announce over the PA system in school for the Health and Wellness Fair. She asked them if they were able to make the morning announcements. Angela said Ms. Fulton wasn't in school on Monday so she wasn't able to read the announcements. Dr. Genco said Ms. Fulton also wasn't in today, Tuesday. Joann asked Dr. Genco who could help the reps with reading the announcements. Dr. Genco suggested to Andrew and Angela they could reach out to Ms. Monks and come to the Main Office. Dr. Genco will let the Secretaries know so they allow Angela or Andrew to use the announcement phone first to advertise the fair.

Joann says it is a really fun event with great ideas for enhancing health and wellness. Sasha gave accolades to Joann and acknowledged all her hard work, dedication and creativity in sharing valuable health education and awareness to the community. Sasha thanked Joann and said she is a valuable asset to the Municipal Alliance Board and the community. Joann reiterated she has a great committee working very hard putting it together.

- **Princeton High School Update** – Joann asked Sasha if she had anything to report about the high school. Sasha shared there is a meeting tonight which is a continuation of the public forum from Princeton Township's April meeting. Sasha reported there are lots of different things going on at this time.

Princeton PTO is working on programs for its students. There are students vaping in the restrooms at the high school.

- **Recreational Marijuana Legislation Update** – Joann shared there was a special meeting last time the Municipal Alliance met but she doesn't know the outcome. She also shared the Princeton Cannabis Task Force was having a meeting this Thursday, May 19th at 1:30 pm. They cancelled their previous 2 meetings. She's sure they will share an update on what's happening regarding recreational cannabis. Sasha shared there is a meeting tonight which is a continuation of a public forum. She thinks it's at 7:00 pm. Joann said members can probably go on Princeton Township's Website to get the link. She thanked Sasha for that update and asked her for PHS updates. Situation happening regarding their principal. There were concerns he was not going to have his position renewed. There was a big rally from parents and students for his renewal. He has been renewed for next academic year. A lot of parent uproar regarding the strategic planning as well. A lot happening in the parent community in Princeton. As far as mental health issues, always big topic in Princeton and anxiety always high in the school. PHS continues working with school counseling psychologist to put programs together for this month and next month for the students. She will share the programs at next month's Municipal Alliance meeting to see if they would like to incorporate them in Cranbury if they work well in Princeton. Preparing students would be great for middle schoolers. Vaping education in Cranbury is excellent. Kids go to vape and hang out in Princeton High School gender-neutral restrooms. She is not sure if Princeton High School and middle school has programs for vaping. It would be nice to have outside presentations to educate the teenagers on dangers of vaping, like in Cranbury.

Sasha also shared that Princeton's PTO elections will be happening soon. If she is voted in, she will be President for her 4th year. Joann expressed her appreciation to Sasha and thanked her for the updates and information she provides.

DISCUSSION

Joann asked the student representatives if they could maybe create a sign to advertise to the student leaders the Health and Wellness Fair. She also asked if Andrew or Angela knew how many student leaders might be planning on attending the fair. Andrew said he thinks a lot and he and Angela are attending.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Joann introduced a visitor to the meeting, Gaelle Dennery and asked her to share with the Board what she does. Ms. Dennery introduced herself as a Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner and was invited by Christlie Julien to attend today's meeting. She expressed how Cranbury seems to be doing wonderful things for substance abuse education for the community and students. Ms. Dennery works in New York City, actually it's Long Island City at Phoenix House. She lives in New Jersey in Hudson County. Joann was happy she was able to attend the meeting. Ms. Dennery expressed her gratitude for being invited to the meeting and found it to be very interesting. She thanked the Board. Joann asked Evelyn if she knew if someone who lives out of town can be on the Board.

Joann asked if there were further comments. Sasha asked Joann if she was supposed to update Joann and the Board about Matt Wallace on doing a cannabis presentation for the parents. Joann said plan is for him to speak in the fall. Sasha wanted all to know that he mentioned he needs a 50% deposit to secure a date and suggested the Board can discuss at the June meeting. Joann agreed and thanked Sasha for following up.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE MEETING

Joann asked for a Motion to adjourn meeting. Motion was made by Dr. Susan Genco to adjourn the meeting at 4:17 pm. Motion was 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 5 pages, constitutes a true and correct copy of the minutes of the meeting held on May 17, 2022.

Kathy Warnebold, Secretary

Approved Minutes June 21, 2022