

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

October 18, 2022

TIME AND PLACE OF MEETING

The scheduled meeting of the Cranbury Township Municipal Alliance Committee was held on October 18, 2022 in the Township Committee Meeting Room, in Cranbury Township at 3:30 pm.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson, Joann Charwin called the meeting to order at 3:36 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.

ROLL CALL

Answering present to the Roll Call were, Joann Charwin, Robyn Skeete, Sasha Weinstein, Elizabeth Grimaldi and Andrea Kaplan. Members, Chief Mike Owens, Anjali Joshi and Erin Santise were absent. Liaison, Evelyn Spann was present.

MINUTES

Joann asked for Motion to Accept the September Minutes. Motion was made by Sasha Weinstein to accept. Motion was seconded by Elizabeth Grimaldi. All attending Members in favor.

Joann introduced future new Member to the Board, Maria Benerofe.

NON-MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

None

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES REPORT

Joann asked Chloe Yang to report on the items that were chosen for handouts during Red Ribbon Week. Chloe reported bookmarks and pencils were chosen and purchased for the handouts this year. Joann thanked her for her participation and for keeping to the budget as set at the September meeting.

Chloe shared activities planned for the week will be buddy activities with the theme "Celebrate Life" coloring activity. There will be daily morning announcements on how to stay drug free. The Drug Free Pledge will be available again in Home Room for the students to sign. Also, a paper link with individual links stating a pledge on how to stay drug free will be signed by the students and linked together to form a chain. Joann expressed thanks to Chloe and Nathan for their participation on the upcoming Red Ribbon Week celebration.

Joann asked about activities for Jamfest. Chloe reported activities offered will be volleyball and basketball games on opposite sides of the gym, karaoke and video games.

POLICE REPORT

None.

LIAISON REPORT

Ms. Spann had nothing to report to the Municipal Alliance Board at this time.

BUDGET

Board went over line-item balances in the budget. Current balance of all line items totaled \$12,428.87. Joann proposed keeping budget line items the same amounts as in 2022. Joann proposed an increase to the Secretary's compensation to \$7,100.00 for 2023 budget. Joann asked for comments or questions. Having none, Joann asked for roll call vote for acceptance of the 2023 budget with an increase to Secretary's compensation and all line item amounts to remain the same as in 2022. Joann asked the Board for a roll call vote on proposed budget.

Roll Call Vote - Andrea Kaplan, Aye, Joann Charwin, Aye, Elizabeth Grimaldi, Aye, Robyn Skeete, Aye, Sasha Weinstein, Aye. Joann will prepare the proposed budget for 2023 and will provide same to the Administrator, Denise Marabello.

OLD BUSINESS

World Mental Health Day October 10, 2022 - Joann reported was a big success with a lot of people stopping by the table Municipal Alliance had set up. Some people provided useful information on resources. Joann reported that most of the Municipal Alliance Members were there, including Chief Owens. Also, Mayor Barbara Rogers was there in addition to Township Committee Members Eman El-Badawi and Evelyn Spann. Some additional people from town such as Maureen Rafferty from the Cranbury Board of Health and Mayor's Wellness Campaign. Dr. Susanne O'Callaghan, and John Walker of the Agnes McCarthy Charitable Foundation. Also, Gaye Korley, President of Middlesex County NAMI as well as Maria Benerofe from Penn Medicine Princeton Health Community Wellness Program were at the table.

Joann got in touch with Penn Medicine Princeton Health Community Wellness Program. A person she spoke to put her in touch with the Cranbury area liaison, Ms. Maria Benerofe. Joann spoke to and invited Ms. Benerofe to sit in on today's meeting and to join the Municipal Alliance as she could be a great resource to the Board and community. Ms. Benerofe works at Penn Medicine Hospital, Plainsboro in the Community Wellness Programs Department and gave a brief overview of what she does in the department and how she works with the community in supplying education and resources for mental health support. Ms. Benerofe will go into a more detail about her work a little later in the meeting.

Joann shared the Municipal Alliance's table was featured in the local newspaper. Elizabeth Grimaldi asked if this was first year for Board to have a table on World Mental Health Day. Joann explained yes, this was something new to try as the hikes in the past were not that well attended. Elizabeth proposed to maybe expand the table set up next year. Joann thought great idea and discussed maybe moving over to Cranbury Commons. Joann reported money spent on Coffee for visitors came out to be only \$14.50 instead of the \$70.00 which was voted on and approved at the September Meeting.

ON-GOING BUSINESS

Teen Mental Health First Aid – Sasha had meeting with Board of Education Members regarding mental health training programs. Sasha also reported that Princeton High School, Principal Chmiel approached her to discuss possible programs for the students on harassment and intimidation.

Mailing of 988 Magnets – Joann asked Evelyn Spann for comment on any legalities of sending a cover letter with the magnets. Evelyn pointed out that the current Municipal Alliance Bylaws are written to focus on drug and alcohol abuse and since mental health is not part of the bylaws at this time, Evelyn will discuss the mailing with Township Committee at their next meeting on October 24th. She will report back to Municipal Alliance with the best way to move forward with mailing 988 magnets and letter on mental health. Evelyn also suggested the possibility to add magnets and message to another mailing to save money. It was decided to table topic until November's Municipal Alliance Meeting. Evelyn agrees the bylaws should show the Municipal Alliance is adding mental health awareness.

Evelyn asked about costs involved for a single mailing. Secretary Warnebold stated she will email Evelyn the list of costs involved for envelopes, postage and the magnets themselves.

NEW BUSINESS

Meeting Dates Schedule for 2023 – Joann asked for a Motion to approve all 2023 meetings to remain as they are now, the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 3:30 pm. Joann asked Chloe and Members if convenient. All answered yes.

Halloween on Main Street – Joann reported it will be on Monday, October 31st and the Police Department sent an email stating they will not be closing the street this year. There will be more police and lighting during trick or treating. Joann will be handing out items with drug free messages. Sasha shared she viewed a video warning of candy laced with fentanyl and that community should be vigilant around Halloween. Joann would like to view the video. Sasha will share with her and the other Members.

November 4th Jamfest – Overview by Chloe Yang during her Student Representative Report. New World Van Lines will be delivering gaming tables to school for the event, then to Police Department for permanent storage afterwards. Sasha spoke to Penny Ftikis who spoke to New World Van Lines to set up delivery.

Joann asked for Motion to pay New World Van Lines \$200.00 to deliver gaming tables to the Cranbury School, then an additional \$100.00 to bring the equipment to the Police Department for storage. Motion to move forward with paying made by Elizabeth Grimaldi. Motion Seconded by Andrea Kaplan. All Members were in favor and answered with Aye.

Red Ribbon Week – Chloe discussed under Student Representatives Report. Joann asked how much handouts cost. Chloe shared the costs for handouts was \$274.00. Joann commended Chloe and Nathan for spending under the budgeted amount of \$400.00.

Health and Wellness Fair Date – Joann opened discussion whether it should be held the weekend before or after Memorial Day Weekend. Joann proposed the first Saturday in June might be a better day as it seems people are busy with other organizations having their own programs the weekend before Memorial Day. She asked the Board's thoughts. Elizabeth offered maybe June would be better as it may be a little warmer and school schedule would need to be checked to see when Field Day is scheduled. Andrea Kaplan checked the school calendar and saw no school events scheduled on weekends in June.

Joann asked for a Motion to plan 2023 Health and Wellness Fair on Saturday, June 3, 2023. Andrea Kaplan Motioned to approve. Motion was Seconded by Sasha Weinstein. All members responded in agreement with Aye. Chloe was asked by Joann what she thought about June 3rd. Chloe expressed concern about people going on vacation but otherwise thought it was a good date.

Penn Medicine Princeton Health Community Wellness Programs – Maria Benerofe described in more detail, her work at Princeton Penn Med Hospital and of her department. The hospital offers a variety of programs and classes geared towards health and wellness. Ms. Benerofe visits schools, faith-based organizations, schools,

businesses and libraries to offer mental health first aid classes, CPR, self-defense classes. There are many different classes and organizations they work with. She is involved with vaccine clinics and screenings. She asked if any questions. She has coordinated with Ken Jacobs to do a Mindfulness Program at the Cranbury Senior Center. In closing, Ms. Benerofe expressed appreciation for becoming a Member of the Board. Joann thanked her for the overview and future contribution to the Board.

Elizabeth Grimaldi asked if programs were free or if a fee is involved. Maria explained some programs are free and some have a nominal fee attached.

Joann mentioned future programs at the September Meeting and was looking for suggestions for additional programs so they could come up with more exact numbers for the 2023 budget. She shared that she communicated with someone at a company called Personality Resources who explained they offer workshops. Joann went on to describe programs offered to parents and children, teachers and students, police and adolescents. Joann suggested the Board could try one of the workshops and there are two choices to facilitate it; either the Representative from Personality Resources could attend the November or December meeting and do a presentation to the Board or, the Board could have subcommittees of 3 Members to attend a workshop.

Elizabeth shared she made a connection with the horticulture program and Robyn Skeete will sit in on some sessions. Robyn is excited about working on the program which involves water testing as well as other horticulture studies. They can involve peer help with older students to assist with water testing procedures. Robyn thinks it is a great concept and Robyn will bring information to her Advisor to see how they can bring similar programs to the school and library. Robyn will work with her Professors to maybe also work on a community program. Joann thanked Elizabeth Grimaldi for facilitating combining Robyn's resources and the school's program already in place.

Sasha Weinstein and Robyn Skeete asked Joann if she had more information about the company, Personality Resources mentioned earlier. Joann reiterated they offer workshop programs to many different segments of the population and community. If the woman Joann spoke to is willing to come to one of the meetings, she could share more information about their programs. Sasha asked if the Board decides to move forward with utilizing the company, what would costs be, how would it be set up in a school setting, etc. Joann said she is in the process of gathering information about programs which they offer. It was suggested to obtain costs and time commitment information before setting up speaker from Personality Resources to come and provide her presentation.

Discussion on having the speaker attend one of the meetings to give an overview of her programs. It was agreed that it was important to obtain costs for budget. Joann offered to gather more information.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ADJOURNMENT OF THE MEETING

Joann asked for a Motion to adjourn meeting. Motion was made by Andrea Kaplan to end the meeting at 4:35 pm. Motion was seconded by Robyn Skeete. 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 October 18, 2022.

Kathy Warnebold, Secretary

Approved Minutes January 17, 2023