

MONTVILLE TOWNSHIP DRUG AWARENESS COUNCIL/MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE COMMITTEE

Minutes of February 8, 2017

Meeting Called to Order: by Chairperson J. Daughtry at 7:32pm

Members in Attendance: L. Accardi, M. Campbell, N. Collemi, L. Connelly, J. Daughtry, N. D'Oench, D. Gawley, M. Johnson, S. Marcus, J. Salamone, J. Scialla, K. Spitz, J. Witty

Members Absent: M. Cooney, J. Matias

Liaisons in Attendance: D. Nielson – Twp. Committee (regular), J. Sandham – Twp. Committee (alternate), D. Danzi – M.T.P.D., M. Palma – Montville BOE

Guests in Attendance: R. Appelmann (Montville Twp. Chief of Police), D. Gaillan (Montville Twp. Social Services Assistant), N. Mertz (Montville Twp. Dept. of Social Services), C. Ziolkowski (Montville Twp. Youth Activities Coordinator), S. Jones, A. Peluso (Montville Twp. Health Services Director), T. Swords, G. Sumka, R. Bonanno, M. Hovanick.

The meeting was opened with an introduction of the Council's newest member, Nicole Collemi. As a graduate from Farleigh Dickenson University who is currently working in the field of education, she expressed her excitement to be a part of the D.A.C. The Council warmly welcomed their newest member, and welcomed additional members from the community in attendance at this evening's meeting.

Chairperson's Report:

Chair Daughtry expressed that he had only a brief announcement for this evening's report, prior to diving in to the scheduled presentation. The Chair had sent around a list of county events and is available to coordinate if any members are interested in attending. Interested Council members are to contact Chair Daughtry from more information or to confirm their attendance.

Special Presentation:

The Council welcomed back community member T. Swords, who had attended the January meeting of the Council and offered to arrange a presentation by two of her friends involved with the L.E.A.D. program. T. Swords quickly introduced G. Sumka, a concerned member of the Montville Community, and S. Jones, a local resident who formerly served as an officer in a nearby municipality and has experience with the L.E.A.D. program.

G. Sumka and S. Jones ran through a hard copy of a presentation on the L.E.A.D. ("Law Enforcement Against Drugs") program. As the successor to D.A.R.E. it is a specialized curriculum shared within the public school systems under the instruction of a police officer. Unlike D.A.R.E., L.E.A.D. has a stronger character education/decision making component which focuses more so on the underlying factors that contribute to addictive behaviors, rather than the technical aspects of the substances themselves. They reported that L.E.A.D. currently utilizes a variation of the "Too Good" curriculum, and has been implemented in 450 schools in the State of New Jersey (including Parsippany and Chatham). Student surveys are completed before and after the course, providing additional data to school districts and their communities.

S. Jones also noted that the teacher or a school nurse must be present in the room with the police officer during the instruction of the course. Officers are also required to complete a certification course prior to becoming an instructor, with lifetime materials included. The cost for this training is \$125 per officer. L.E.A.D. also has a pool of certified, retired police officers who can instruct the program at a cost of \$300/per class.

N. Mertz inquired as to the split from D.A.R.E. Why the transition? S. Jones noted that D.A.R.E. was a national program, but NJ started its own, state-level chapter. NJ began to break away from the national organization, developing a stronger curriculum on its own. After some legal exchanges between the two, changed its name to L.E.A.D. and presented a program with a strong focus on community policing and character education. Chief Appelmann expanded on this comments, noting his former experience as a D.A.R.E. officer for the Township earlier in his career. The Chief explained that the older "Just Say No" approach was more technical. New approached to "community policing" build off of the best aspect of D.A.R.E., a relationship between the students and their local police. S. Jones agreed, noting that L.E.A.D. was a more "interactive" program than its predecessor.

D. Gawley asked if the presenters had any additional data on trends post L.E.A.D. What (if any) trends are there in communities that have implemented L.E.A.D. on crime and delinquency? The presenters noted that L.E.A.D. is still a very young program, and that they did not have such information readily available. N. Mertz asked for clarification on the age of the program. S. Jones reported that he had been involved with the program since its earlier days, 5 to 6 years at this point.

C. Ziolkowski. asked how many police officers would need to be trained in order to cover each of the 5 elementary schools in town. Chief Appelmann replied that you would typically have 3 officers split between the 5 schools, as each will usually have 3 to 4 5th grade

classes. In the past, the Township had two dedicated D.A.R.E. officers splitting their time between the schools. He reiterated that he had served as one of the Township's D.A.R.E. officers in the 1990's, and believed it was an important program for the bond that it formed between the students and the police. He remarked that he had young men and women coming up to him years later commenting that they remembered him from their D.A.R.E. courses.

Mayor Sandham asked for clarification regarding the scope of the program, noting that the presentation listed "K-5". S. Jones noted that the curriculum is designed to include activities that can be utilized at any grade level from K-12, but not every grade level features D.A.R.E. instruction. Activities can be implemented at any level (and as many levels) as the Township/District sees fit, depending upon availability and other resources. The Mayor asked the presenters if they had already spoken to the District or the B.O.E. G. Sumka replied that they had not, they were concerned citizens who were just looking to start the conversation, saw the D.A.C. as the initial step.

N. Mertz asked the Police Chief if he could provide an estimated cost for the program. Chief Appelman indicated that it boils down to the \$125 training cost, as they would look to utilize on-duty officers. N. Mertz followed up by asking if the Department currently has the manpower to accommodate such a program. The Chief replied that they do not have the manpower at this time.

K. Spitz reported that she had previously spoken to the Superintendent of Montville Township Public Schools, Dr. Rovtar, regarding L.E.A.D. She had invited her to this evening's meeting, but she was not able to attend. K. Spitz noted that if officers were not immediately available, looking at a retired officer might be another possible option in the meantime, just to get the program started. S. Jones noted that a retired local cop cannot simply walk in and teach the program, they would have to be an employee of the school district. Otherwise you run into copyright issues. G. Sumka also noted that technically the Police Department has ownership over the program and its related materials, once they sign on.

As the reading of the initial presentation concluded, S. Jones offered a supplemental statement on his experience with the program. He noted that he has been involved with L.E.A.D. for many years, and echoed Chief Appelman's comments regarding the importance of establishing a relationship with local youth. In his view, it was the biggest part of the experience, noting that the students continue to recognize and come up to you years later. He noted that there are additional features rolled into the program that are designed to assist schools with meeting their requirements under the H.I.B. ("Harassment Intimidation and Bullying) law for tracking and reporting. N. Mertz asked which grade S. Jones had experience teaching in. He responded that he previously worked with 6th graders. C. Ziolkowski asked if this was the ideal grade level, in his opinion. S. Jones replied that he thought 5th to 6th would be the ideal grades, as they represent a big stepping stone year for local youth.

D. Gawley asked K. Spitz if the Superintendent had indicated where there might be a potential fit for the program in their prior discussions. K. Spitz noted that it sounded like the District was open to the idea of adding the program, but wanted to be sure that it did not fall solely on the shoulder of the teachers. S. Jones noted that, in his District, the schools assigned a nurse to be in the room with the officer so the teachers were not required to be present.

J. Witty asked if any local officers were currently on light duty or recently retired who might be a good fit for the program. Chief Appelman noted that there had been discussions back and forth between the Township and the schools district regarding a possible S.R.O. ("School Resource Officer"). The Department already had one officer undergo the necessary training for S.R.O. implementation, and would be a good fit for L.E.A.D. Mayor Sandham also noted that the Township Committee has not settled on the S.R.O. matter, which would ultimately be a full-time position in the high school. He noted that L.E.A.D. is a separate matter from the S.R.O., particularly if the program is looking at elementary and middle school grade levels. He asked if there was any follow up at the 6th grade level, if the program is initially implemented in the 5th grade.

G. Sumka noted that the curriculum covers grades K through 12. There are activities and lessons available if the Township wanted to explore a two-tier program where students participate in both the 5th and 6th grades. She noted that the material does relate to each grade level, building off of past lessons. Each grade level program, however, is its own 10 week course.

N. Mertz asked if any other, local programs utilize L.E.A.D. across multiple grade levels. G. Sumka noted that, through her research, most areas focus on the 5th grade. S. Jones concurred, noting that it's best to implement the character education component and decision making skills prior to the transition from elementary to middle school.

On the other hand, L. Accardi asked whether or not it made sense to implement in one building (the middle school) rather than spread ourselves out to 5 elementary schools (particularly when resources are a concern). Is there any detriment to starting a little later? S. Jones noted there was not, that it makes sense from a logistical standpoint. G. Sumka noted her concern would be that the program is very engaging, and that students may not be as open to participating in 6th grade when they are just getting to know many of their peers. L. Accardi offered a counter thought, noting that this program might help this process of assimilation and team building. Furthermore, she noted that we could always look to expand the program to other grade levels if it was successful in the middle school. N. Mertz noted that the program still requires B.O.E. sign off before detailed plans for implementation are made.

D. Nielson noted that K. Spitz raised another alternative, hiring a retired police officer on a part-time basis. She noted that there are a number of retired officers who remain active locally, including one who is currently a substitute teacher within the schools. N. Mertz asked whether or not utilizing a retired officer diminishes the “bond” element of the program. Chief Appellmann replied that he believes it does, there’s no substitute for having a uniformed officer in the room. The student identify and respond to the uniform. L. Accardi also echoed the value of any assistance available through L.E.A.D. on H.I.B. reporting.

Having another matter to attend, S. Jones left the meeting. The Council thanked him for his time and insights.

K. Spitz mentioned that, with respect to the S.R.O., part of the role’s responsibility is teaching. If the position were implemented at MTHS, would they be able to move through the district? Chief Appellmann confirmed that an S.R.O. would not necessarily be tied to the high school. Though they would theoretically be based out of MTHS, they would be able to move throughout the district as a resource for all of the schools. L. Accardi asked why we wouldn’t look to combine the roles of an S.R.O. and a L.E.A.D. instructor, noting that students would be more willing to open up to the S.R.O. in high school if they remembered them from their elementary school days.

S. Marcus asked G. Sumka if the State Department of Health had given their seal of approval to the program. G. Sumka noted that the New Jersey Association of School Administrators had endorsed L.E.A.D., was not sure of the Board of Health.

M. Johnson asked whether or not it was worthwhile to “Invest” in the program by sending one officer to the training. At the very least, secure rights to program materials for potential integration and use down the line. N. Mertz noted that we did not yet have support from the school district, and asked whether or not it was worth it to go to the BOE with a proposal before manpower was confirmed. Is it putting the cart before the horse? Chief Appellmann noted that implementing the program is rather simple in practice, just a matter of changing routes. Expressed his preference to get an officer trained and then work out the details, perhaps refocus on the S.R.O. initiative.

Mayor Sandham reiterated his support for starting the program in the 5th grade, as he believes students have a better relationship at that stage. He also stressed the need to know the financial impact before making a full commitment. Concurred that it might be a good move to start with L.E.A.D., evaluate the program, and then go back to exploring the S.R.O. proposal. G. Sumka noted that L.E.A.D. training is only offered on certain dates and at different locations, recommended looking at the schedule to determine when a decision should be made, if interested.

With respect to potential grade placement, S. Marcus reiterated that focusing on the 5th grade puts a heavier strain on available resources, and would most likely require more than one officer. Mayor Sandham estimated that there are roughly 12 individual classes through the 5th grade across all schools in the district. N. Mertz noted that this could amount to 15 hours per week for an officer, if they were tasked with squeezing in all classes to keep up with the curriculum. L. Accardi reiterated her support for starting the program at the 6th grade as all students are in one place. She also noted that individual school and class schedules have to be taken into consideration, it’s not just the officer’s schedule that will determine availability. M. Palma asked K. Spitz if scheduling came up at all during her conversation with the superintendent of schools. K. Spitz indicated that their conversation did focus more so on the Robert R. Lazar middle school, as integrating an additional program at the elementary school level may play havoc with existing schedules.

N. Mertz noted that, even if L.E.A.D. were implemented at the middle school, students would most likely be broken up into smaller work groups, rather than large classes. Mayor Sandham recommended that the Council go back to the superintendent and inquire as to her preference between 5th or 6th grade. L. Accardi raised M. Johnson’s question once again, if we are seriously thinking of moving forward with this proposal, is it worth sending an officer to received training while we can? How do we move the ball forward.

Chair Daughtry asked K. Spitz to follow up with the superintendent of schools on this conversation. J. Scialla asked whether or not the D.A.C. should draft a resolution recommending the program. Mayor Sandham said that a request should come to the Township Committee first, formalizing this discussion. As an officer will likely be coming off of the street to accommodate this program, if implemented, it will have to be discussed by the full Committee. Chief Appellmann noted that the request for training does not require additional approval, and can come from the Department’s budget. He will look further into the next available training sessions and what is required. N. Mertz noted that the Township Committee will have to approve the overall implementation of the program.

Chair Daughtry noted that the next step will be to draft a letter resolution recommending the L.E.A.D. program. S. Marcus recommended that the letter be sent to both the superintendent of schools as well as the Township Committee, and must state the Council’s support in recommendation of the program. Mayor Sandham noted that the Township had already started a direct dialog with the district and the B.O.E., but we need to be sure that we’re not running in five different directions. He supported the notion that the letter should be addressed jointly to the Township Committee and the B.O.E. J. Scialla urged the Council to develop a timeline for this process as well, to ensure it’s not just kicked down the line. N. Mertz noted that the Police Chief is in the room, everyone is a part of this discussion and committed to seeing it move ahead.

*A motion was made by J. Witty, seconded by L. Accardi, to draft a letter of recommendation to the Montville Township Committee and Montville Township Board of Education in support of the L.E.A.D. program, summarizing this evening’s discussion and expressing the D.A.C.’s support in recommending the program for adoption. **Approved by a voice vote of all in attendance.***

Chair Daughtry tasked Corresponding Secretary M. Johnson with writing the approved letter.

Approval of the Minutes:

M. Johnson submitted the proposed minutes for the regular January meeting and special session held on January 25th via Email. The floor was opened to a discussion on the proposed minutes by Chair Daughtry. Seeing no comments, *a motion was made by D. Gawley, seconded by L. Connelly, to approve both the proposed minutes for the January meeting of the D.A.C. as well as the proposed minutes for the special session (goal setting) meeting of the D.A.C. on January 25th. **Approved by a voice vote.***

Liaison Reports:

First Aid – J. Scialla noted that there was one instance of a “D.O.A.” (“dead on arrival”) call, along with 8 other incidents related to drugs/alcohol since the last month’s report. Two of these included suicide attempts. S. Marcus asked if any details on patient age were available. J. Scialla reported that she could not give specific details, but all were over the age of 18. S. Marcus asked if a ballpark estimate of age range was available. J. Scialla estimated that all individuals fell between the ages of 18 to 46 years of age. S. Marcus noted that he would like to know the age, where possible, to determine illegality (did they fall in the ballpark of 18 to 21 years of age?).

Police – A hardcopy report was distributed to the members of the Council. Mayor Sandham noted that, of the 14 incidents listed in the report, only two involved Montville residents. S. Marcus asked if there were any further details on the case listed as “D.O.A.” (“dead on arrival”). J. Scialla clarified there was not. Once death was declared, first aid was dismissed.

SAC – No report.

Board of Education – Nothing relevant to report at this time.

Township Committee – D. Nielson reported that the Township Committee would be expediting funding for the installation of cameras around the Youth Center and community park. The Township will have some, limited control over potential placements, and asked for any recommendations.

Youth Services – Hard copy report distributed via Email. C. Ziolkowski also reported that \$4,000 in grant money needs to be spent on community programs before the end of the year. Noted that Youth Center hours and management have not changed. Happy to meet with Council members to discuss. Project Graduation account is in good shape, all will be spent on the program. Grant spending must be spent down, however, prior to June 30th. D. Nielson asked for clarification on the grant spending deadline for new members. C. Ziolkowski noted that grant cycles do not run on the traditional calendar year, runs from July 1st to June 30th of the following year. All requisitions for grant spending under the D.A.C. should come through his office. T. Swords asked for clarification on the term “parent program” as it was linked to D.A.C. grant spending. N. Mertz noted that this was initially established for any programming targeting local parents. C. Ziolkowski clarified that it could be expanded more broadly to community programs. J. Witty asked if this could be utilized in support of any educational program. C. Ziolkowski noted that he would have to follow up with the County for approval. He also noted that REACH has currently logged 100 of community service events. Their goal for the year is 160. Still more elementary school visits to come.

L. Accardi asked for the name of the grant received by the Council. C. Ziolkowski noted that it was the “Municipal Alliance” grant. J. Scialla asked if this grant could pay for something like L.E.A.D. C. Ziolkowski said that this was a grey area, and something that he would have to look into. He asked the Council if there were any parent programs currently in the works.

K. Spitz and L. Accardi noted that they have a few community programs in development, including the Narcan training program, but they are all free. C. Ziolkowski noted that the grant money could be allocated towards supplemental materials for the programs, and not just the cost of the presenters themselves. Refreshments, fliers could be purchased to utilize these funds. S. Marcus noted that the Council should seek to get the best bang for its buck, and devise strategies to use these funds towards an educational end; it is already the second week in February.

C. Ziolkowski also noted that he had sent an Email to the Council expressing his concern on a note from the recent special session of the D.A.C. He asked for clarification on the “Youth Center Security Committee”, but did not get a response. L. Accardi noted that the focus of this discussion was more so on the area surrounding the youth center and community park, not a critique of the Youth Center itself or the management therein. Expressed concerns that some youth are arriving early or signing out of the youth center and getting into trouble around the grounds. This discussion asked whether or not there was a need for police surveillance/presence during certain hours. J. Witty also noted concerns regarding students signing themselves out, and sought to devise ways of making them want to stay in the building. Modern kids have many of the amenities offered at the Youth Center in their own homes, how do we make them stay? C. Ziolkowski noted that, ultimately, kids will do what they want to do. They cannot be forced to stay in the Youth Center. N. Mertz reminded the Council that they are discussing two, separate properties here: the Youth Center and the Community Park. All blame cannot be levied against the Youth Center for what may or may not be happening in the park. D. Nielson recommended assigning further discussion to the sub-committee assigned. N. Mertz noted that they are happy to discuss recommendation and ideas, and will work together with the Council within the scope of their resources/budget. The Council must also be aware of the issue of perception versus reality and urged its members to be careful in their wording.

Sub-Committee Reports:

Chair Daughtry asked all committee chairs to please Email the membership with a description of their committees, and to plan initial meetings in the near future.

Project Graduation – L. Connelly noted that the Project Graduation committee will be meeting with the senior class board on February 22nd. Current rumor is that students want to organize a private trip into the city. Hoping to get student feedback that will make the event more enticing. J. Scialla recommended bringing the city to them with an event theme for this year's Project Graduation. L. Connelly noted that they would ask for the student's feedback on a theme. Mayor Sandham also recommended stressing to the students that there will be a larger police effort this year to crack down on private parties serving alcohol to underage attendees. L. Connelly also noted that the committee is finalizing letters, and working on a digital blurb. M. Campbell noted that the superintendent of schools sent a great letter on private parties in the past, and asked if this could be done again. Mayor Sandham recommended including a news article on a family from a neighboring town that was recently charged for hosting an underage drinking party. D. Nielson noted that a blurb on Project Graduation can be sent out with the tax notice. N. Mertz warned that the Council had been charged last time around. D. Nielson noted that this fee can be waived, a miscommunication occurred last time, and the fee was ultimately refunded to the D.A.C. M. Campbell also noted that the Township sends out a newsletter twice a year. D. Nielson offered to work with the Council on this, as space must be reserved in advance.

Community Programs Committee – K. Spitz and L. Accardi developed a schedule for monthly educational programs, starting in March with the Narcan training. No summer programs planned due to D.A.C. seasonal break. Additionally, they are working with J. Witty to organize a repeat of the successful Opiate Epidemic presentation at the high school on April 25th. N. Mertz reminded them that supplies for these programs, including fliers for promotion, can be purchased through the grant. Mayor Sandham recommended tying in a raffle, like a locking medicine cabinet, if it is also covered by the grant. Something that ties into the program that may also serve a functional purpose in addition to educational. J. Scialla asked if something like gift cards would be covered by the grant, if they were given out in connection to an educational program. C. Ziolkowski to investigate. N. Mertz encouraged Council members to be creative, think outside of the box.

Survey Committee – M. Johnson reported that a graduate student had been assigned to the D.A.C. by Rutgers University. M. Johnson will be working with S. Marcus to set up a meeting. M. Johnson had also spoken to the superintendent, who signaled that the District would also be willing to meet with the graduate student to explore the possibility further.

Public/Other Business (Not on Agenda).

In the course of the Council's discussions, N. Mertz raised a question as to the validity of recent claims that Montville was "number one" in opiate deaths. Just curious as to reported source that prompted this claim. Mayor Sandham indicated that he had used the term in his state of the Town address during the Township Committee's reorganization at the beginning of the year, and that his data had come from meeting with Captain Caggiano of the Montville Police Department. A clarification was made that while not all overdose victims were Montville residents, 7-8 deaths did occur within our jurisdiction. S. Marcus reiterated that it is almost impossible to get clear data on opiate related deaths, and that he has yet to receive a substantive response to his letters of inquiry to the state. He will continue his efforts, and asked that others please consider reaching out and requesting this data as well.

M. Hovanick, a concerned citizen, introduced himself to the Council. He is a Montville parent, and recently saw an article in the newspaper regarding state funding made available by Governor Christie. He asked if there was anyone who talks to the County to see if money is available. Members of the Council noted that grant funding is utilized and applied for on certain projects. Chair Daughtry also communicates with the head of the Morris County alliance. Mayor Sandham indicated that he will do some additional research as well.

The Council also welcomed A. Peluso of the Montville Township Health Department to report on upcoming events. She noted that upcoming initiatives will have more of a focus on opioids and primary prevention, a request made by member S. Marcus in past discussions. Additionally, promotional programs for the Township's prescription medication drop box (located at police headquarters) and "lock it up" (for home medicine cabinets) initiatives were in the works. A symposium on local services is currently scheduled for February 20th. Additional programs for realtors on the need to lock up and secure medicine cabinets during open houses, as well as a "do no harm" program for physicians, are under development. The Health Department is also working with the Montville Township Police Department to establish a satellite office for Morris County CARES, allowing for more resources and direct collaboration. The Health Board is also seeking to have Montville Township declared a "stigma free" community, a similar resolution was recently adopted by the Montville school district. A. Peluso asked the D.A.C. to consider appointing one of its members as an ambassador for the "stigma free" initiative. J. Witty recommended K. Spitz, who had initially been involved in kicking off "stigma free" initiatives in town. K. Spitz noted that she had tried to coordinate a grassroots effort among local organizations for a "stigma free" designation, and would be happy to consolidate her efforts under the Township's direction. A. Peluso concurred, noting that the Health Department will continue to move the ball forward, and that the D.A.C. is always welcome onboard. J. Witty asked if there were any programs currently in development for senior citizens and their caregivers. N. Mertz reported that a program for this audience was under development at the senior house.

Finally, A. Peluso noted that revisions to municipal code regarding tobacco use were under consideration. As the existing language does not cover electronic cigarettes, new language has been proposed. She also noted that initial language also sought to raise the age for purchasing tobacco products from 18 years to 21 years, but this portion was dropped. S. Marcus inquired as to the reasoning behind the drop, expressing his belief in the need to ensure that tobacco products do not fall into the hands of individuals of the same age group, who might make it accessible to their younger peers. A. Peluso noted that the current priority was to close gaps under the current code and ensure the electronic tobacco devices were covered. Specifically, she pointed to language dealing with "electronic smoking establishments" such as Hooka lounges and vape shops, noting the urgency to get something on the books. It was generally felt that additional language regarding an age requirement might tie up these more critical revisions, and can always be addressed separately at a later time.

Mayor Sandham also noted, with respect to the legal age question, that it would be difficult to enforce a higher local age of purchase when the federal age is lower. S. Marcus asked if he saw any difference regarding earlier approaches to the sale of alcohol, and stressed that the data is clear regarding the harm caused by tobacco products. This information is all available via national resources, such as SAMSAH. Other communities have agreed with these findings and raised the legal age. The State also considered a change, until it was conditionally vetoed by Governor Christie. Mayor Sandham indicated that a public discussion had already been held on this topic, resulting in the decision to remove the language from the current proposal. He invited S. Marcus to come to the Township Committee and make a presentation on the subject. A. Peluso reiterated the importance of getting the current proposal in place, and distributed copies to the Council members. She invited them to read it, and join the Township Committee at a future meeting to share their thoughts. S. Marcus noted that there is not argument on the need to get the proposed revisions adopted.

The Council noted the lack of a presence from S.A.C. for another month, and asked B.O.E. liaison M. Palma to go back to the district and ask that the S.A.C.s devise a schedule to ensure at least one representative attends D.A.C. meetings.

K. Spitz asked if it would be possible to have a police officer attend future D.A.C. programs. In line with the goal of community policing discussed earlier, it would be a great way to establish a presence. D. Nielson noted that the D.A.C. would have to meet and make a collective recommendation to the Township Committee to approve a request like this. K. Spitz asked if this could be added on to the letter approved earlier in the meeting, to be drafted by M. Johnson.

*A motion was made by K. Spitz, seconded by L. Accardi, to amend and supplement the earlier motion to include a recommendation for police participation in community events in furtherance of the goal of establishing a relationship with the police and members of the community under the community policing philosophy. **Approved by a voice vote of all in attendance.***

Chair Daughtry noted that the end of the year report for the Council's 2016 activities is due. Copies were distributed to the membership. He asked that all comments and additions please be sent to him as quickly as possible.

D. Nielson asked if anyone knew the location of the digital recorder used to tape meetings. J. Witty noted that it had last been seen at a prior D.A.C. meeting at the youth center, not seen since. M. Johnson recommended checking the cabinets in the youth center. If it was not left in its usual spot in the office, it might have been tucked away out of sight for safe keeping.

Adjournment:

There being no further business to discuss on a motion made by L. Accardi and seconded by L. Connelly, all in favor by voice vote; meeting adjourned at 9:40pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael D. Johnson
Corresponding/Recording Secretary
March 8, 2017