

PARTNERS IN PREVENTION

Town of Somers

WESTCHESTER COUNTY, N.Y.

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KATHY CUCCHIARELLA
CHAIRWOMAN

SOMERS TOWN HOUSE
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SOMERS, NY 10589



MEETING MINUTES
August 13, 2025

Chairwoman Cucchiarella called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

The following members were in attendance: Andy Casimir, Carol Cirioco, Kathy Cucchiarella, Margaret DiLorenzo, and Tom Mauro.

Lauren Johnson, Pat Otis and Nick Pasalides were absent.

Somers Middle School Youth Prevention Coordinator Amanda Casey, WEPR Corresponding Secretary Karen Collura, Student Assistance Services Coordinator of Community Based Services and Training Nicole Malgarinos and Somers High School Youth Prevention Coordinator Jessica Periera were also present.

Sadly, Mrs. Cucchiarella announced the passing of former Somers Police Chief Mike Driscoll. While in that capacity, he served on the Partners and was a wonderful asset to the community. Mrs. Cucchiarella sent a sympathy card to the family on behalf of the Partners.

Minutes – A motion was made by Mr. Mauro to approve the minutes of the July 9, 2025 meeting as submitted. Mrs. DiLorenzo seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Town Budget Expenditures – The Town budget allotted for Partners in Prevention this year is \$3,000. Last month \$150.00 was paid to Halston Media for the ½ page ad in the graduation pull out of The Somers Record.

Drug Free Communities (DFC) Grant:

Mrs. Cucchiarella has been working on the Progress Report which is due on August 15th at midnight. The Year 7 Sustainability Plan is completed and is part of the Progress Report. The CCT Report which Mrs. Cucchiarella submitted has been approved.

Mrs. Cucchiarella just received the PRIDE Survey results, which will be shared with the County. Since the survey wasn't done until June this year, the results were a bit different than previous years when it was done in February.

Mrs. Cucchiarella will be meeting with the new School Superintendent Dr. Adam Bronstein next week.

Planning for the K.N.O.W. 2 Prevent speaker series will begin soon. Ideas for speakers are welcomed. Ms. Malgarinos reminded Mrs. Cucchiarella that there are some great speakers available at no charge.

The alcohol awareness campaign that was as a result of the K.N.O.W. 2 Prevent Training Forum last January is now available. Mrs. Cucchiarella will have flyers and media data available at the Back to School Nights and Celebrate Somers. The flyers are printed in English and Spanish. They also have QR codes which link to important websites like Power to the Parents.

Student Assistance Services Counselors – Both Ms. Casey and Ms. Periera are currently participating in required training which has been very helpful and the speakers very informative. October is Substance Abuse Prevention Month and NYS's Oasis program will be shared. Preliminary plans are underway for Red Ribbon Week which is also in October.

Somers High and Middle School Updates – Mr. Rodriguez and Mrs. Mangone were not present.

Youth Programs Updates – Hopefully some new Somers High and Middle School students will be willing to attend the Partners meetings starting in the new school year.

Somers Police Chief Updates – Police Chief Linkletter was not at the meeting this evening, however, in preparing the Progress Report, Mrs. Cucchiarella had to collect some data which she shared. From August 2024 to June 2025, 632 pounds of medications were collected, 205 pounds of sharps and 31 vapes. In her opinion, this is something to celebrate and will speak to Police Chief Linkletter about publishing these statistics.

Somers Central School District Family Liaison Updates – Mrs. Hernandez was not present this evening, but Mrs. Cucchiarella shared a Tusker Shop flyer, which is printed in English and Spanish, announcing that the Shop will be open next on Saturday, September 6th from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. The flyers have been posted on the Partner's Facebook page.

OLD BUSINESS

Youth Vaping Initiative – Mrs. Cucchiarella will continue to try to get some students to create a PSA about vaping to be played in a movie theatre, while at the same time offering SMS and SHS students a ticket to see the movie that will play the PSA, a soda and popcorn. This is still work in progress and the \$5,000 grant for this event has been set aside. She recently heard that the Carmel movie theatre will be re-opening under new management and will follow up.

Narcan Training – Mrs. Johnson and Mrs. Cucchiarella were supposed to Narcan train 132 Somers Middle School staff on March 3rd, but that date had to be postponed. A new date will need to be determined.

Freshman Peer Leadership – Mrs. Cucchiarella hopes to coordinate with students this fall with the assistance of Doug Packard to move forward with an addition to the current Freshman Peer Leadership program and are hoping to have Andy Duran, CEO of LEAD, run a one-day workshop. This all depends on whether the DFC Grant is funded again and at what amount.

Lion's/Leo's Partnership/Opportunities – Mrs. Cucchiarella will reach out to the new contacts for the Lion's Club and Leo's and hopes that Mrs. Ciriaco would be willing to join her when she meets with these folks.

AYSO Soccerfest – The Partners registered and paid for the Silver Sponsorship in the amount of \$200.00 to have a table at the AYSO Soccerfest at Reis Park in June. Unfortunately, the event got cancelled due to the extreme heat. Mrs. Schirmer will follow up with the Parks and Recreation Department as to when the reschedule date is.

Review of Proposed Bylaws – There is a DFC Grant requirement to have bylaws. They did exist but were unfortunately lost when Mrs. Cucchiarella's computer crashed. They were recreated and will be circulated for review and comment so a vote can take place.

Back to School Nights – As has been done in the past, the Partners will have an informational table at the Somers Middle School Back to School Night on September 17th from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. and the High School on September 18th at the same time. Mrs. Schirmer will email everyone to get coverage.

Somers Varsity Football Games – There are only three home games this year, but Mrs. Cucchiarella thought it might be a good idea to have a table at these games and buy squishy footballs with the Partners logo on them for distribution at these games.

NEW BUSINESS

PTA Partnerships – Mrs. Cucchiarella is hoping to create some PTA partnerships. Mrs. Collura will share that information.

Wrestling Tournament – As was done last year, the Partners will have a table at the annual Wrestling Tournament at Somers High School. Mr. Mauro will advise of the date when he hears.

Sign Message – Mr. Mauro will change the message on the sign by the Trooper's Barracks for the upcoming school year.

Hidden in Plain Sight – Mrs. Cucchiarella would like to make Hidden in Plain Sight available for the parents of the High and Middle schoolers as it can be very informative and impactful. An ideal time is to have it as part of another event that parents will be at

the schools so there is a captive audience. Mrs. Cucchiarella will speak more about this with Ms. Casey, Ms. Mangone, Ms. Periera and Mr. Rodriguez.

International Drug Overdose Day – Each year, International Drug Overdose Day is on August 31st and as has been done in the past, the Somers schools will be lit up in purple.

Celebrate Somers – Once again, the Partners will have an informational table at Celebrate Somers on Saturday, September 20th from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the Somers Town Center. Mrs. Schirmer will email everyone to get coverage.

Reclassification of Marijuana – An email was sent out via CADCA to advocate for not reclassifying marijuana from a Level 1 to a Level 3. Mrs. Cucchiarella hopes that everyone will click on the link in the email to do so.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m. and the Partners will meet next on September 10th at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Schirmer, Secretary
Somers Partners in Prevention

cc: Partners in Prevention
Town Board
Town Clerk