

PARTNERS IN PREVENTION

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KATHY CUCCHIARELLA  
CHAIRWOMAN



**Town of Somers**

WESTCHESTER COUNTY, N.Y.

SOMERS TOWN HOUSE  
335 ROUTE 202  
SOMERS, NY 10589



**MEETING MINUTES**  
**October 8, 2025**

Chairwoman Cucchiarella called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

The following members were in attendance: Andy Casimir, Carol Cirieco, Kathy Cucchiarella, Lauren Johnson, Pat Otis, and Tom Mauro.

Margaret DiLorenzo and Nick Pasalides were absent.

Volunteer Brian Breese, Somers Middle School Youth Prevention Coordinator Amanda Casey, Resident Trish Casimir, and Somers High School Youth Prevention Coordinator Jessica Periera were also present.

New volunteer Brian Breese was introduced to the group.

**Minutes** – A motion was made by Mrs. Johnson to approve the minutes of the September 10, 2025 meeting as submitted. Mr. Casimir seconded the motion. All were in favor.

**Town Budget Expenditures** – A request has been made to increase the budget from \$3,000 to \$3,500 in 2026. During the month of September, Town funds were spent on the fee for Celebrate Somers, candy for outreach, Medication Take Back postcards, copies of the alcohol awareness flyer, and a ½ board for the Somers High School Football games. There is \$287 left to be spent by the end of the year, which will be used to purchase give-a-ways at outreach events.

**Drug Free Communities (DFC) Grant:**

Mrs. Cucchiarella had a conversation with Fabiana Hershfield who oversees the PTA's Hang Up and Drive program. All students who drive to school and their parents are required to participate. It will be held on March 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Somers High School Auditorium and once again the Partners will be able to have a table set up in the lobby. Westchester County has a DWI simulator and Mrs. Cucchiarella will research the

possibility of having it at Hang Up and Drive.

Now that the coalitions have been informed about their funding for this school year, plans are in process of securing speakers for K.N.O.W. 2 Prevent.

Mrs. Cucchiarella shared the different campaigns available for use about alcohol awareness. Flyers were available at the Back-to-School nights, and she would like these to be used on the Partner's and school's social media platforms.

The Youth Leadership Task Force is organizing for this school year. They meet once a month and Mrs. Cucchiarella hopes that the Somers High School can have some representation this year.

Parents Against Vaping will be offering a free webinar tomorrow. Mrs. Cucchiarella encourages all to register for it on their website.

**Student Assistance Services Counselors** – Both Ms. Casey and Ms. Pereira have begun planning for activities for Substance Use Prevention Month and Red Ribbon Week. Ms. Casey will host a pumpkin patch pledge and Ms. Pereira, a ribbon puzzle pledge. Items including prizes and decorations, have been purchased to be used for Red Ribbon Week. Mrs. Cucchiarella purchased Red Ribbon lollipops. Banners advertising this Week will be placed on the school fencing. Themes for three days during Spirit Week are also being planned for. Ms. Casey had a Youth-to-Youth meeting on October 1<sup>st</sup> and another one today. These students assist in planning for the events planned. Ms. Pereira has a Youth-to-Youth meeting tomorrow. Ms. Pereira has a Club Fair on September 16<sup>th</sup> with a great turnout and is happy to see that many of last year's 8<sup>th</sup> graders are now participating as freshmen.

**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 present.

**Somers Central School District Family Liaison Updates** – Mrs. Hernandez was not present this evening.

## **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 3<sup>rd</sup>, but that date had to be postponed. Mrs. Cucchiarella will speak to Mrs. Mangone about a new date.

**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.

**Lion's/Leo's Partnership/Opportunities** – Mrs. Cirieco will reach out to the new contacts for the Lion's Club and Leo's in hopes that a partnership with these two groups can be formed. Ms. Periera can assist as well as some of her students are in the Leo's.

**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 and a decision has been made not to reschedule for this year. Mrs. Schirmer followed up and was told that since their plan was to have the event and advertising was done which included the Partners in Prevention, next year a new fee would have to be paid.

**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 had an informational table at the Somers Middle School Back to School Night on September 17<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. and the High School on September 18<sup>th</sup> at the same time. Mrs. Cucchiarella thanked those that assisted at the tables, Ms. Casey, Mrs. Hernandez, Mrs. Johnson and her daughter Meeka, Ms. Periera and Mr. Mauro.

**Somers Varsity Football Games** – There are only three home games this year on September 26 and October 10 as well as 17, 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. A discussion about purchasing squishy footballs continued. Mr. Mauro suggested that the Somers High School Football Touchdown Club be contacted about sponsoring a sign that is posted on the nights of the game. The announcer thanks those sponsors throughout the game. Mrs. Schirmer made arrangements to sponsor a double-sided sign.

**Celebrate Somers** – Once again, the Partners had an informational table at Celebrate Somers on Saturday, September 20<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the Somers Town Center. Mrs. Cucchiarella thanked those that were able to assist at this event Mr. Breese, Mr. and Mrs. Casimir and their son Roman, Mrs. Johnson, Meeka Johnson and Mr. Mauro.

**Somers Medication Take Back** – The Medication Take Back Day will be held on Saturday, October 25<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Somers Police Station. Mrs.

Schirmer has emailed everyone as to their availability and will remind them a couple of days in advance. Mrs. Johnson got a donation of sharps depositories from Putnam Hospital.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Somers Women's Club Tag Sale** – Mrs. Casimir suggested that the Partner's have a table at the Somers Women's Club Tag Sale next September as they have a lot of people attending this event.

**Medication Take Back Postcards** – Mrs. Casimir has distributed many Medication Take Back Postcards around Town. She is also willing to pass the alcohol awareness flyers around. Mrs. Casimir was thanked for her assistance.

**Somers High School Coffee Houses** – Mr. and Mrs. Casimir's daughter reached out to the Somers High School staff member who hosts their Coffee Houses about the Partners being present with an informational table and he thought it was a great idea. They are held in January and May. Mr. Casimir will report back with the dates.

**Narcan Kit Assembly** – Mrs. Johnson needs some assistance assembling Narcan kits and is hoping Ms. Casey and Ms. Pereira can wrangle up some students to do so.

**Wrestling Tournament** – As was done last year, the Partner's will have an informational table at the Somers High School Wrestling Tournament on January 17<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Mauro will keep Mrs. Schirmer posted as to when she has to register for that.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m. and the Partners will meet next on November 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Schirmer, Secretary  
Somers Partners in Prevention

cc: Partners in Prevention  
Town Board  
Town Clerk