

PARTNERS IN PREVENTION

# Town of Somers

WESTCHESTER COUNTY, N.Y.

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KATHY CUCCHIARELLA  
CHAIRWOMAN

SOMERS TOWN HOUSE  
335 ROUTE 202  
SOMERS, NY 10589



## MEETING MINUTES February 11, 2026

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

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

Somers Middle School Youth Prevention Coordinator Amanda Casey, Resident Trish Casimir, Student Assistance Services Coordinator of Community Based Services and Training Nicole Malgarinos, and Somers High School Youth Prevention Coordinator Jessica Pereira were also present.

**Minutes** – A motion was made by Mrs. Cirieco to approve the minutes of the January 14, 2026 meeting as submitted. Mr. Casimir seconded the motion. All were in favor.

**Town Budget Expenditures** – \$3,000 was approved for the 2026 budget. Mrs. Cucchiarella will be reimbursed \$568 for the purchase of 500 pens and 500 post it notes with the Partners QR code to be used for distribution at outreach events. The balance in the account is \$1,707.

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

On Friday, Mrs. Cucchiarella will be meeting with the new interim Athletic Director Tommy Albano. Among other things to be discussed are the Somers High School coaches, athletes and parents exploring participating in the Substance Free Athletics Program and all coaches taking a Narcan training course. Mrs. Cucchiarella thanked Mr. Mauro for connecting her with Mr. Albano.

The year 9 grant assessment review is due on March 12<sup>th</sup>.

The K.N.O.W. 2 Prevent speaker on January 29<sup>th</sup> was Dr. Alok Kanojia who presented Understanding Video Game Addiction: Dopamine, Motivation and Supporting Kids at Home.

The Steering Committee will meet next on March 4<sup>th</sup> at which time Ms. Casey, Mrs. Cucchiarella and Ms. Pereira will present their review of the code of conduct for the schools as requested.

**Student Assistance Services Counselors** – Ms. Pereira will be attending the Student Assistance Service’s Youth Leadership Conference on March 10<sup>th</sup> with 4 senior High School students and one junior. She has also made arrangements for Mrs. Cucchiarella to attend if she is able. Ms. Malgarinos will need shirt sizes for the students attending as they will be giving out t-shirts. Bus arrangements have been made.

A table was set up in the cafeteria to address Children of Addiction Awareness and morning announcements were made about this very important subject. In addition, a Kisses for Kindness activity took place. Kind messages were written on heart shape post it notes and put up on Ms. Pereira’s bulletin board outside of her office. Plans are underway for Gambling Awareness month in March. She is also preparing to speak with seniors who will be making a decision as to what college they plan to attend to ease the process.

The Youth Task Force created stickers for pizza boxes for the Super Bowl. Some of the seniors who drive brought them to Slice who said they would put them on the pizza boxes.

Ms. Casey also sponsored a Kisses for Kindness activity but her student messages were written on a huge heart, which was displayed on the bulletin board outside of her office. She has been updating her Instagram on a regular basis. Plans are also in place for activities for Gambling Awareness month in March.

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

**Youth Programs Updates** – Hopefully some Somers High and Middle School students will be willing to attend the Partners meetings, especially since they are Zoom meetings.

**Somers Police Chief Updates** – Police Chief Linkletter was not present this evening.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**Youth Vaping Initiative** – A \$5,000 grant was awarded to create a Youth Vaping PSA with a celebratory event for the students involved. The hope was to create a PSA about vaping to be played at the Carmel 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. Unfortunately, the movie theatre closed, but was to re-open under new management which seems to be taking forever. Mrs. Cucchiarella, welcomes other ideas to see this to fruition, but in the meantime, she has asked Ms. Casey and Ms. Pereira to work with some of their students to create the PSA so it is at least finished.

**Narcan Training** – Mrs. Johnson and Mrs. Cucchiarella were supposed to Narcan train

the Somers Middle School staff last March, but that date had to be postponed. Mrs. Cucchiarella will speak to Mrs. Mangone about a new date.

**Freshman Peer Leadership** – Mrs. Cucchiarella hoped to coordinate with students with the assistance of Doug Packard to move forward with an addition to the current Freshman Peer Leadership program and hoped to have Andy Duran, CEO of LEAD, run a one-day workshop. This project has been put on hold as DFC funds are limited at the moment.

**Lion's/Leo's Partnership/Opportunities** – Mrs. Ciriaco 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. Unfortunately, she missed the last two meetings but will move forward on this endeavor.

**Eric D'Agnesse Wrestling Tournament** – The Partners had an informational table at the Eric D'Agnesse Wrestling Tournament. It was supposed to take place on January 17<sup>th</sup> in the Somers High School gym from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., but had to be postponed twice until Monday, January 19<sup>th</sup> due to the weather. Thanks were extended to Mrs. Otis and her grandson John Fontana who were able to man the table until 1:00 p.m. and to Mr. Mauro for picking up everything needed from Mrs. Cucchiarella, and setting up as well as breaking down the informational table.

**Somers High School Coffee House** – Mr. Casimir and his son Roman represented the Partners by having an informational table at the Somers High School Coffee House on January 30<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. Mr. Casimir said it went pretty well. They were introduced but the traffic to the table was fairly light. He will attend the next Coffee House in May. Mr. Casimir and Roman were thanked for assisting.

**Hang Up and Drive** – All agreed to have an informational table at the PTA sponsored Hang Up and Drive at the Somers High School on March 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 p.m. Mrs. Schirmer will send an email out to get volunteers to man the table.

**Somers Medication Take Back** – The Medication Take Back Day will be held on Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Somers Police Station. Mrs. Johnson will create a post card for distribution and have it printed.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Narcan Kit Supplies** – Mrs. Johnson was able to secure supplies needed to put together 400 Narcan Kits from the NYS Department of Health. The only thing that needs to be purchased is nitril non latex free gloves of which two are put in each Kit. Mrs. Schirmer will make that purchase.

**Lincoln Hall** – Mrs. DiLorenzo wanted to ensure everyone that although there are rumors about Lincoln Hall closing down. They are only stopping the programs that they offer there, but the recovery community will still meet there and AA meetings will continue.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m. and the Partners will meet next on March 11<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