

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
March 11, 2026

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

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

Carol Cirieco and Kathy Cucchiarella were absent.

Town Board Liaison Councilwoman Gina Arena, Somers Middle School Youth Prevention Coordinator Amanda Casey, Resident Tom Mauro and Somers High School Youth Prevention Coordinator Jessica Pereira were also present.

Councilwoman Arena was introduced and she shared with all her reason for wanting to be a liaison to the Partners.

Minutes – A motion was made by Mrs. Otis to approve the minutes of the February 11, 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 was reimbursed \$569 for the purchase of 500 pens and 500 post it notes with the Partners QR code to be used for distribution at outreach events and Mrs. Schirmer \$119 for the purchase of Hershey's Kisses for an event at the Middle and High Schools as well as Nitrile Gloves for Narcan Kits. The balance in the account is \$1,587.

Drug Free Communities (DFC) Grant:

Mrs. Schirmer reported the following as given to her via email from Mrs. Cucchiarella:

Mrs. Cucchiarella met with Dr. Brenna Van Frank, Pediatrician and Senior Medical Officer on Smoking and Health at the CDC. She will be speaking at the next K.N.O.W. 2 Prevent webinar on April 22nd from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. The title for the presentation has yet to be determined, but the content will include nicotine pouches, e-cigs, the latest science on physical and mental health effects, withdrawal, cessation, rebranding of nicotine as healthy and what parents can do. All are reminded to please mark their

calendars and be sure to register for this presentation. Flyers should be out in the next few weeks. The Somers Partners in Prevention will be the lead/featured coalition for this presentation.

Mrs. Cucchiarella completed the Year 9 DFC Annual Performance Report and gave it to the Somers Central School District, the fiscal agent for submission to the CDC. Typically, responses as to future grant approval happen in August.

Mrs. Cucchiarella contacted Representatives, Gillibrand, Lawler, and Schumer are requesting their support for future funding for DFC grants. Ms. Casey and Ms. Pereira did the same.

Mrs. Cucchiarella attended last month's POWER Against Tobacco and a PAVE - Behind the Buzz: Helping Kids Navigate Nicotine Stress and Mental Health meetings.

Student Assistance Services Counselors – Ms. Pereira and five High School students attended the Youth Leadership Task Force Conference yesterday in White Plains. She said it was amazing and probably the best one she has ever went to. There were two keynote speakers, one of which was Ken Nwadike who spoke about his Free Hugs Project. Ms. Pereira would really like to have him present at the High School and will talk to Mrs. Cucchiarella about it.

March is Problem Gambling Awareness Month and a meeting will be held tomorrow to plan for activities. Scheduling is a bit behind because there were snow days after the winter break and today was a ½ day.

The school year is moving along quickly and soon plans will be underway for Mental Health Awareness in May and Prom safety in June.

Ms. Casey and some students decorated her bulletin board for Problem Gambling Awareness Month and are in the process of planning activities.

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. Mr. Mauro thanked everyone for their support and said the tournament went really well and for him personally the bonus was that his son won the tournament. Mrs. Otis and her grandson John Fontana were thanked for covering the table for a portion of the day. Mr. Mauro was able to keep an eye on it after they left. He also set the table up and broke it down.

Hang Up and Drive – The Partners were to have an informational table at the PTA sponsored Hang Up and Drive at the Somers High School on March 3rd at 7:00 p.m., but the event had to be cancelled due to snow. As soon a reschedule date has been determined, Mrs. Schirmer will send out an email to get coverage.

Somers Medication Take Back – The Medication Take Back Day will be held on Saturday, April 25th from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Somers Police Station. Mrs. Johnson had a postcard announcing the event printed. One side is in English and the other in Spanish, it should be ready for pick up tomorrow. She will get some to Ms. Casey and Ms. Pereira, and will also need assistance distributing them around the community. Some have already committed to help out that day. Mrs. Schirmer will follow up with an email. As part of the event, food will be collected to support the St. Luke's Food Pantry.

NEW BUSINESS

Assemblance of Narcan Kits – Mrs. Johnson was able to secure supplies needed to put together 400 Narcan Kits from the NYS Department of Health. Mrs. Schirmer purchased Nitrile Gloves. Assistance will be needed to assemble the kits and Mrs. Johnson is hoping that Ms. Casey as well as Ms. Pereira can provide some students to help.

Narcan Training at Scarsdale High School – Mrs. Johnson was supposed to conduct

a Narcan Training at Scarsdale High School on May 22nd in the morning and she now has a conflict. She is hoping that she can find someone else to take her place.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m. and the Partners will meet next on April 8th at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Schirmer, Secretary
Somers Partners in Prevention

cc: Partners in Prevention
Town Board
Town Clerk