

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 May 13, 2026

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

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

Carol Cirienco was absent.

Town Councilwoman Gina Arena, Somers Middle School Youth Prevention Coordinator Amanda Casey, Resident Trish Casimir and Somers High School Youth Prevention Coordinator Jessica Pereira were also present.

Mrs. Cucchiarella spoke about the sudden passing of Student Assistance Services Coordinator of Community Based Services and Training Nicole Malgarinos. She was a great friend and colleague and will truly be missed.

Minutes – A motion was made by Mr. Casimir to approve the minutes of the April 8, 2026 meeting as submitted. Mrs. Johnson seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Town Budget Expenditures – \$3,000 was approved for the 2026 budget. Mrs. Schirmer was reimbursed \$50 for the registration to have an informational table at the Somers Middle School PTA Car Show and Mrs. Cucchiarella was reimbursed \$260 for the printing of the Medication Take Back postcards. The balance in the account is \$1,237.

Drug Free Communities (DFC) Grant:

Dr. Brenna Van Frank, Pediatrician and Senior Medical Officer on Smoking and Health at the CDC, spoke at the K.N.O.W. 2 Prevent webinar on April 22nd from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. The presentation was titled "Nicotine: New Package, New Health Claims, Same Risks for Youth Health and Wellness. The presentation was excellent. Mrs. Cucchiarella welcomes ideas for speakers for next school year.

The Year 9 DFC Annual Performance Report request was completed by Mrs. Cucchiarella. Typically, responses as to future grant approval happen in August.

A request to the County by Mrs. Cucchiarella to borrow the DUI simulator was approved. It will be available at the Senior Breakfast on June 12th from 7:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the High School.

K.N.O.W. 2 Prevent hosted a Westchester Training Forum via Zoom on April 28th, for the purposes of educating all prevention professionals, law enforcement, government personnel and healthcare professionals as to what the science says about the therapeutic mechanisms of psychedelics, the challenges of ensuring safety and regulatory oversight, and the lessons history offers for creating policy. It was a great presentation.

Mrs. Cucchiarella reported on the following from the last Westchester Coalition meeting:

A discussion took place about further distribution of pizza stickers.

Three surveys for teachers and administrators, students as well as parents on banning cell phones in the schools were created. It is a simple, five-minute survey that Mrs. Cucchiarella hopes the School District will agree to distribute via the staff. If not Ms. Casey and Ms. Pereira will help distribute as best they can.

There was a Drug and Alcohol session for Youth to Youth on May 7th.

Mrs. Cucchiarella will speak to Cathy Cody about applying to have a Save a Life or Arrive Alive tour at the High School next year.

There will be a Youth Leadership meeting on May 18th with activities and pizza for the students.

There are 102 proms being held in Westchester County and some have already taken place. Unfortunately, some alcohol and marijuana had to be confiscated. There is a 3-minute video available to share with the students. The Westchester County Executive has provided prom information to the school principals – What Every Parent Should Know About Prom Night and After; Prom Contract Tips; and General Prom Facts for distribution to parents.

Student Assistance Services Counselors

Ms. Pereira decorated her bulletin boards for Healthy Brain Day on April 20th. April was Alcohol Awareness Month. A lemonade stand and spin the wheel was set up during lunch in the cafeteria and was a big hit. May is Mental Health Awareness month and JCK presented to the 9th graders and met with them in break out sessions. The Youth to Youth hosted a Chalk the Walk event allowing the students to write positive messages on the school sidewalk. A 6' Healthy Prom poster will be posted in the school hallway. Thankfully, the students are bussed to the prom venue, but if there are any issues of pre-prom partying, the staff will deal with it immediately. Ms. Pereira thanked Mrs. Cucchiarella for making arrangements to have the DUI simulator at the

Senior Breakfast. Work will continue on activities for Mental Health Awareness month and year end activities.

Ms. Casey has been promoting Alcohol Awareness Month, Healthy Brain Day and Mental Health Awareness month via Instagram, flyers, signs, morning announcements, and newsletters. Next Tuesday, pizza will be served for lunch in the cafeteria and she is hosting a Slice the Stigma activity by writing ways in which to deal with mental health issues on a slice of paper pizza. She will have a Chalk the Walk event on May 21st. Today Youth to Youth made stress balls.

Both Ms. Casey and Ms. Pereira will be meeting with the 8th grade parents regarding transitioning to 9th grade at the High School.

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 next school year, especially since they are Zoom meetings.

Somers Police Chief Updates – Police Chief Linkletter was not present.

OLD BUSINESS

Youth Vaping Initiative – A \$5,000 grant was awarded to create a Youth Vaping PSA. Mrs. Cucchiarella has asked Ms. Casey and Ms. Pereira to work with some of their students to create the PSA. They may also reach out to Samantha Wagner regarding the Pillow Talk program she did.

Narcan Training – Mrs. Johnson and Mrs. Cucchiarella were supposed to Narcan train the Somers Middle School staff last March. As another year has passed, Mrs. Cucchiarella will make an appointment with the new Somers Middle School principal over the summer to make these arrangements.

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. Cirienco 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.

Hang Up and Drive – Ms. Casey, Mr. Casimir and Ms. Pereira represented the Partners by having an informational table at the PTA sponsored Hang Up and Drive at the Somers High School on April 14th. Mr. Casimir reported that the program is mandatory therefore it was very well attended, but only a couple of people came to the

table. The PTA representative did tell Mr. Casimir that next year the Partners will have an opportunity to speak before the programs starts.

Somers Medication Take Back – The Medication Take Back Day was held on Saturday, April 25th at the Somers Police Station. 105 pounds of medication, 6.6 pounds of sharps and a dozen vapes were collected. A lot of food was collected for the St. Luke's Food Pantry.

Somers High School Coffee House – Mr. Casimir and his son Roman represented the Partners with an information table at the Coffee House on April 24th at the High School. There seemed to be more interest in what was on the table than at the last Coffee House and some Narcan Kits were handed out.

Cruisin Into Spring – The Somers Middle School PTA held a Cruisin Into Spring Event on April 12th at the school and Ms. Casey and a student represented the Partners by having an informational table. Ms. Casey spoke with a lot of parents and it provided good visibility.

NEW BUSINESS

Narcan Kits – Mr. Casimir noticed that when he is doing outreach for the Partners quite a few people comment that they already have a Narcan Kit.

Sign and Banner – Mrs. Schirmer will speak to Mr. Mauro about changing the sign to read “Congratulations Graduates” and hanging the “Congratulations Graduates” banner up in Bailey Park.

Soccerfest – Mr. Casimir will try to find out when Soccerfest will be held.

Somers Woman's Club Tag Sale – Mrs. Schirmer will research having a table at the Somers Woman's Club Tag Sale.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m. and the Partners will meet next on June 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