

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
August 12, 2026

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

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

Margaret DiLorenzo was absent.

Somers Middle School Youth Prevention Coordinator Amanda Casey, resident Trisha Casimir, Associate Director of the North for WEPR Karen Collura, Somers Police Chief Brian Linkletter, and resident Tom Mauro were also present.

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

Town Budget Expenditures Update – \$3,000 was approved for the 2026 budget. There were no purchases made in July. The balance in the account is \$932.

Drug Free Communities (DFC) Grant:

The progress report that was supposed to be due in August is now due at the end of September. Ms. Cucchiarella has attended the KNOW 2 Prevent Planning Meetings. Planning for speakers for the year are being investigated. Red Ribbon week is October 23rd to 31st with a theme this year of Be a Hero and Stay Drug Free. Plans for the district events will be worked on with Ms. Casey and Ms. Ferreira.

Mr. Mauro will change the message on the sign at the Trooper's Barracks.

Mrs. Cucchiarella will make arrangements to meet the new Somers Middle School Principal and she would like Ms. Casey to join her. Ms. Casey will be at the 6th grade orientation on August 26th so that might be a good day.

Yesterday in Manhattan, Kevin Sabet previewed his new documentary THC, Inc. Ms. Casey was in a program with him during training on Monday and said it was great. It will be available free on You Tube starting tomorrow.

Student Assistance Services Counselors Updates

Ms. Casey has been in training this week and then she will focus on getting ready for the opening of school. She will be attending the 6th grade orientation on August 26th.

Somers High and Middle School Principal Updates – The Principals 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 said there has not been much going on. They will be at the Heritage Hills Flu Clinic and Medication Take Back Day on October 7th from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. A lot of epi-pens and sharps are being put in the medication box. In May, 28 pounds of medication were taken to the incinerator in Valhalla, 22 pounds in June and in July 36 pounds.

Mrs. Johnson will share information with Chief Linkletter to get a Med Project Box which gets picked up by Fed Ex.

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 upcoming students to create the PSA, which hopefully can be shown at the Carmel movie theatre as it reopened. They may also reach out to Samantha Wagner regarding the Pillow Talk program she did. Mrs. Cucchiarella reached out to the movie theatre and spoke with a manager who really was not able to answer her questions easily without texting one of the owners. Mrs. Cucchiarella will try to make arrangements to meet with one of the owners.

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 Paul Brennan over the summer to make these arrangements. Mr. Mauro suggested that perhaps the school coaches can be trained as well.

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 connect Mrs. Cucchiarella with Lion's Club President Glen Karoglanian and Dr. Bridgham who oversees the Leos.

Adult Mental Health Training – Mrs. Johnson is certified to teach Adult Mental Health Training which is a 7-hour class. A minimum of 4 is needed to run the class with a maximum of 30. The Partners can pay for the manuals and guides for the participants. She would like to offer the class on Saturday, October 3rd from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. with an hour for lunch. The Partners can pay for the manuals and guides. Mrs. Schirmer will reach out to the library to see if the room is available.

NEW BUSINESS

DEA Medication Take Back Box – Mrs. Johnson thinks it would be a good idea to get a Medication Take Back Box from the DEA for our event on October 24th. Local DEA folks attend the event, weigh the box and the amount collected is part of national numbers. This is a good partnership and funding resources may be available to those who participate. Police Chief Linkletter will have to submit the paperwork that Mrs. Johnson will share with him.

QR Code – The Partners QR Code which was printed on Post It Notes to be used at events has expired. Hopefully Ms. Periera can renew it. If not, we will have to get a new one. Post It's were purchased with the Partner's logo and QR Code which will not connect to anything now. If the QR Code can't be renewed and a new one is secured a paper with that QR Code can be handed out with the Post It give-a-ways.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m. and the Partners will meet next on September 9th at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Schirmer, Secretary
Somers Partners in Prevention

cc: Partners in Prevention
Town Board
Town Clerk