PARTNERS IN PREVENTION

Town of Somers

WESTCHESTER COUNTY, N.Y.

Telephone
(914) 277-5582

KATHY CUCCHIARELLA
CHAIRWOMAN

SOMERS TOWN HOUSE
335 ROUTE 202
SOMERS, NY 10589

MEETING MINUTES
September 9, 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 Cirieco was absent.

Somers Councilwoman Gina Arena, Somers Middle School Principal Paul Brennan, Somers Middle School Youth Prevention Coordinator Amanda Casey, resident Trisha Casimir, Associate Director of the North for WEPR Karen Collura, resident Tom Mauro, and Somers High School Youth Prevention Coordinator Jessica Perreira were also present.

Mrs. Cucchiarella introduced new Somers Middle School Principal Paul Brennan. All in turn introduced themselves to Mr. Brennan. Throughout the meeting, Mrs. Cucchiarella told Mr. Brennan what the Partners do and how they can help the Somers Middle School students and community.

Minutes – A motion was made by Mrs. Otis to approve the minutes of the August 12, 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. The balance in the account is $932. $55 was spent to register the Partners to have an informational table at the Somers Women's Club Autumn Sale on September 27th. Mrs. Schirmer is waiting for the invoice from the Chamber of Commerce to have an informational table at their event on September 26th in the amount of $130. The balance in the Town budget will be used to purchase manuals for the Adult Mental Health Training Mrs. Johnson is doing at the Somers Town House on October 3rd. The manuals cost $30 each. A request for $4,000 will be made for 2027, in an effort to

maintain sustainability when the DFC Grant runs outs in the fall of 2028.

Drug Free Communities (DFC) Grant:
Mrs. Cucchiarella was happy to report the DFC federal grant was awarded for year nine in the amount of $125,000. There is one more year to apply as the span of this grant is 10 years. Mrs. Cucchiarella will meet with the Town grant writers to see what might be available to apply for. Councilman Arena will also connect with Mrs. Cucchiarella to see if she can assist in finding future funding opportunities.

On August 31st, the Somers schools were lit in purple in honor of International Overdose Awareness Day.

There will be a Youth Task Force meeting on October 14th and the discussion will be about a Cell Phone Ban and survey among other items. It is the hope that 2 Somers High School students attend.

Mrs. Cucchiarella said the KNOW 2 Prevent speaker series is almost complete for this school year.

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. Perreira. Banners will be hung in front of the Somers High and Middle Schools.

The Arrive Alive, Interactive Road, and Save a Life program applications are available and Mrs. Cucchiarella will work with Ms. Casey and Ms. Perreira about bringing some of these programs to the Somers High and Middle Schools.

Mrs. Cucchiarella continues to attend the Hudson Valley Tobacco Council, Westchester County Coalition and School Steering Committee meetings.

Student Assistance Services Counselors Updates
Ms. Perreira has been quite busy despite the fact that school just started. She has been talking to the 9th graders. There will be a Club Fair on September 17th. Information was available to the students on 988 day which is suicide prevention. Ms. Perreira will be at Back to School Night at both the Somers High and Middle Schools. September is Recovery Month and information as well as activities will be available to the students. In November she will go into the health classes about self-care. Her bulletin boards have been updated as well as Facebook and Instagram. Ms. Perreira will be at the Somers Women's Club Autumn Sale on September 27th.

Ms. Casey has been seeing students and one on one appointments will begin in October. She too has updated her bulletin board, Facebook and Instagram. Ms. Casey is going into the classes to introduce herself and tell the students what her role is. She will also have information and activities for the students for Recovery Month and will be at Back to School night at both schools. Ms. Casey will be at the Somers Women's Club Autumn Sale on September 27th.

Somers High and Middle School Principal Updates – Somers High School Principal

Peter Rodriguez was not present, but new Middle School Principal Mr. Brennan announced that he met with Ms. Casey's supervisor and will make the parents aware of the resources that she has available to the students. His focus as a new Principal will be parent outreach.

Youth Programs Updates – Hopefully, some Somers High and Middle School students will be willing to attend the Partners meetings this school year, especially since they are Zoom meetings. Ms. Casey and Ms. Perreira will speak to there students once clubs are established.

Somers Police Chief Updates – Police Chief Linkletter was not present but reported to Mrs. Schirmer that in August, 36 pounds of medication were taken to the incinerator in Valhalla. Last month, Mrs. Johnson shared information with Chief Linkletter to get a Med Project Box which gets picked up by Fed Ex and the application has been submitted.

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 incoming 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 here questions easily without texting one of the owners. Mrs. Cucchiarella will try to make arrangements to meet with one of the owners.

Narcan Training – Mr. Brennan agreed to have Mrs. Johnson and Mrs. Cucchiarella Narcan train the Somers Middle School staff at their faculty meeting on November 2nd at 3:15 p.m. It should last about a ½ hour with a Q&A. Mr. Brennan is happy to be offering this to the staff. Mrs. Cucchiarella will need a head count so they have enough Narcan Kits.

Freshman Peer Leadership – Mrs. Cucchiarella hopes to coordinate with students with the assistance of Doug Packard to move forward with an addition to the current Freshman Peer Leadership program and hopes 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. Cirieco connected Mrs. Cucchiarella with Lion's Club President Glen Karoglanian and Dr. Bridgham who oversees the Leos via email. A meeting will be set up to work on partnerships.

Adult Mental Health Training – Mrs. Johnson will be teaching an Adult Mental Health Training which is a 7-hour class on Saturday, October 3rd from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. in the Somers Town House Meeting Room. A minimum of 4 is needed to run the class with a maximum of 30. The Partners can pay for the manuals for the participants. Advertising has and will continue to be done.

Sign at Trooper's Barracks – Mr. Mauro was thanked for changing the message on the sign at the Trooper's Barracks.

DEA Medication Take Back Box – Mrs. Johnson shared the paperwork with Police Chief Linkletter to get a Medication Take Back Box from the DEA for the 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. There is no update.

QR Code
The Partners QR Code which was printed on Post It Notes to be used at events has expired. 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. Ms. Perreira cannot renew the QR Code that was printed on the Post It notes. Mrs. Cucchiarella will speak to Mrs. Johnson about this further.

NEW BUSINESS
There was no New Business.

OUTREACH

Back to School Nights
The Partners will have informational tables at the Somers Middle School Back to School Night on September 17th and the Somers High School on September 24th from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Somers Chamber of Commerce Celebrate Somers
On Saturday, September 26th, the Chamber of Commerce is having their Celebrate Somers event from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Towne Centre at Somers and the Partners will be present with an informational table. The fee to register is $130.

Somers Women's Club Autumn Sale
The Partners will have an informational table at the Somers Women's Club Autumn Sale on Sunday, September 27th from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in Reis Park. The fee to register is $55.

Medication Take Back Day
On Saturday, October 24th from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Somers Police Station, the Partners will host a Medication Take Back Day. A request is also being made for non-perishable food donations for the St. Luke's Food Pantry. Mrs. Johnson created a card for this event, which has been printed and now needs to be distributed.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m. and the Partners will meet next on October 14th at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Schirmer, Secretary
Somers Partners in Prevention

cc: Partners in Prevention
Town Board
Town Clerk