

PARTNERS IN PREVENTION

Town of Somers

WESTCHESTER COUNTY, N.Y.

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(914) 277-5582

KATHY CUCCHIARELLA  
CHAIRMAN

SOMERS TOWN HOUSE  
335 ROUTE 202  
SOMERS, NY 10589



**MEETING MINUTES**  
**November 26, 2019**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. The following members were in attendance: Bob Berman, Kathy Cucchiarella, Christine MacDonald and Pat Otis.

Carol Cirieco was absent.

Guests present included: Drug Crisis in Our Backyard Co-Founder Carol Christiansen, Somers Police Chief Mike Driscoll, Somers Education Foundation Vice President Vicki Durso, Resident Tom Mauro, Resident Bina Meyers, and Somers High School Assistance Counselor Nicole Tarr.

**Minutes** – A motion was made by Mr. Berman to approve the minutes of the October 22, 2019 meeting as submitted. Mrs. MacDonald seconded the motion. All were in favor.

**Town Budget Expenditures** – An ad was taken out in the Somers High School Yearbook for \$150.00 by Mrs. MacDonald. Mrs. Cucchiarella purchased pamphlets on vaping to be used for outreach for \$198.00. The samples of the pamphlets were shared with the group.

**Drug Free Communities (DFC) Grant** – Mrs. Cucchiarella reported that \$54,539.84 out of year one of the DFC Grant funds of \$125,000.00 will be carried over to year two. We have been approved for another \$125,000.00 in year two which began on October 1, 2019.

As part of the grant, in kind services have to be accounted for of which there were no problems attaining that number over the past year.

As mentioned earlier to the Partners, the 40 Developmental Assets survey was conducted with the 8<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders resulting with underage drinking being the highest abuse. This was the basis for the logic model created by Mrs. Cucchiarella and

Ms. O'Shea for submission to CADCA. Mrs. Cucchiarella was required to attend training in Alexandria, Virginia and had to develop, as well as submit a Capstone Graduation product which she shared with the group.

Police Chief Driscoll wondered if the grant money could be used to pay the School Resource Officers to attend the monthly meetings of the Partners. Mrs. Cucchiarella responded that she meets with them on a regular basis to share information and get updates.

Mrs. Cucchiarella would like to purchase 11 x 17 vaping posters with the grant money. She shared the information about the poster.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

**Police and Religious Sector Coffees** – In an effort to share information and keep the lines of communication open, in January, Mrs. Cucchiarella would like to hold a Police Coffee with the State and Town Police, as well as the School Resource Officers. She would like to do the same with the religious community representatives. The new pastor at the Church of the Good Shepard has offered to host that Coffee.

**Stephen Hill – “It Takes A Village”** – Funds from the grant were used to pay for Stephen Hill, a substance abuse and motivational speaker, to present “It Takes a Village” to the Somers High and Middle (7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders) School students on October 28<sup>th</sup>, which was very well received. There was a performance in the evening for the parents and community at large made possible through the generosity of the PTA Council. About 80 folks attended. The grant also supported a Somers High School follow up visit on November 13<sup>th</sup> that included breakout sessions with some of the clubs and students individually, which was quite successful.

**Somers High School Yearbook Ad** – As has been done in the past, Mrs. MacDonald secured an ad in the Somers High School 2020 Yearbook on behalf of the Partners in Prevention.

**6<sup>th</sup> Annual Community Forum Speaker** – The speakers for the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Community Forum are Chris and Kathi Sullivan. Ms. Sullivan recently spoke at the Monroe-Woodbury High School and Mrs. Cucchiarella, Susan DiNardo as well as Ms. Tarr went to hear her speak, and think her program will be very well received at the Forum. A thought that Mrs. Cucchiarella has is to hand out information about Social Host Laws that evening. All thought it was a good idea.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**Blackout Wednesday** – Each year a request has been made to the Supervisor's office to send out an email blast about Blackout Wednesday. That was done earlier today. The flyer was also posted on the Partner's website page.

**Somers Middle School Yearbook Ad** – After the new year, Mrs. Schirmer will place an ad in the Somers Middle School 2020 yearbook.

**Police Chief Report** – Police Chief Driscoll reported that last month 160 pounds of pills were turned in. His department conducted a take back program at Heritage Hills in October and they collected 154 pounds just in their development. He was also happy to share that in October Officer Kim McGuire saved a 31-year old male resident overdosing using Narcan.

**National and State Awareness Weeks and Months** – Mrs. Cucchiarella and Ms. Tarr have been working on creating a National and State Awareness Weeks and Months calendar in an effort to come up with events and programs in a timely fashion.

**2020 Planning** – Since the Partners will not meet again until the end of January, Mrs. Cucchiarella asked everyone to think about ways to increase guest membership to the group, as well as what else can be done in terms of time, money and efforts in planning. Mr. Mauro suggested that students be given an opportunity to work with the Partners for community service hours by assisting at the Coffees and Community Forum.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m. and the Partners will meet next on January 27<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in the Somers Town House Meeting Room.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Schirmer, Secretary  
Somers Partners in Prevention

cc: Partners in Prevention  
Town Board  
Town Clerk