

PARTNERS IN PREVENTION

Town of Somers

WESTCHESTER COUNTY, N.Y.

Telephone
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KATHY CUCCHIARELLA
CHAIRMAN

SOMERS TOWN HOUSE
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SOMERS, NY 10589



MEETING MINUTES April 24, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. The following members were in attendance: Carol Cirieco, Kathy Cucchiarella, Christine MacDonald, and Patty Otis.

Bob Berman was absent.

Guest Partners present included: resident Carol Harrigan, Somers Education Foundation representative Christine Mahoney, and resident Keeva Young-Wright.

Minutes – A motion was made by Mrs. Cirieco to approve the minutes of the February 27, 2017 meeting as submitted. Mrs. MacDonald seconded the motion. All were in favor.

OLD BUSINESS:

Community Forum Update – The Community Forum held on Monday, March 19th went well and had a good turnout. Guest speaker Dr. Richard Stumacher was engaging and heightened the awareness of vaping. The audience had great questions. Since the presentation, Mrs. Cucchiarella has been approached by the parents of some boys in the school that have some concerns regarding this issue. She encouraged them to remain aware, know who their children are hanging out with and to seek professional help.

Mrs. Young-Wright suggested that some students be invited to a Partners meeting to share the top two or three topics they would like support and/or education about. Mrs. Cucchiarella will ask Ms. Baynes for an update on the creation of the CODA Club. In addition, she would like youth representatives to be a part of the Partners. She will also speak to Mr. Bayer and Mr. Getman about creating an anonymous 5 question survey that can be completed as perhaps part of the health classes in an effort to collect feedback from students in terms of what topics they would like to see addressed.

Drug Free Communities Grant Update – The Drug Free Communities Grant application was submitted at the end of March and grant awards will be made by September 30th. \$125,000 is available for 5 years with an option to renew.

Antioch Baptist Church Choir Concert Update – The Northeast Westchester Rotary sponsored a choir concert by the Antioch Baptist Church at St. Luke's Church on April 21st. A good will collection for donations was conducted with all proceeds going to Drug Crisis in Our Backyard. Unfortunately, no one from the Partners was able to man the informational table so Mrs. Cucchiarella made arrangements to have her daughter bring everything to the Church and Mrs. Casella's grandson set up the table.

NEW BUSINESS:

Reefer Sanity: A Smart Approach to Marijuana – Mrs. Cucchiarella shared an advertisement for an event being hosted by Drug Crisis in our Backyard, as well as the Cortlandt and Croton Community Coalitions tomorrow evening at the Cortlandt Town Center at 7:00 p.m. The presentation, *Reefer Sanity: A Smart Approach to Marijuana* is being presented by Dr. Kevin Sabet, President of SAM, Smart Approaches to Marijuana.

Four Partner Positions Available – Mrs. Cucchiarella reminded all that there are four Partner positions available if any of the guest members are interested or anyone knows of someone who would be a good fit. Attendance at all monthly meetings is requested, and an interview with the Town Board is required.

Ideas for Future Speakers – All are encouraged to come up with ideas for future speakers. Mrs. Cucchiarella will research Dr. Kevin Sabet's presentations further. Mrs. Otis suggests plans for an assembly at the Middle School in October.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m. The Partners will meet again on May 22nd 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