

PARTNERS IN PREVENTION

Town of Somers

WESTCHESTER COUNTY, N.Y.

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KATHY CUCCHIARELLA  
CHAIRMAN

SOMERS TOWN HOUSE  
335 ROUTE 202  
SOMERS, NY 10589



**MEETING MINUTES**  
**February 26, 2019**

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

Bob Berman was absent.

Guests present included: Somers High School Assistance Counselor Aisling Baynes, Drug Crisis in our Backyard Co-Founder Carol Christiansen, Somers Town Councilman Anthony Cirioco, Somers Police Chief Mike Driscoll, Resident Bill Felling, and Somers Education Foundation Trustee Tom Newman.

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

**Budget Expenditures** – One thousand 4” by 6” magnets have been ordered from T3LogoWear.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Film – Resilience: The Biology of Stress & The Science of Hope Update** – In cooperation with the Somers Library, on Tuesday, May 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in the Library Program Room, a screening of *Resilience: The Biology of Stress & The Science of Hope* will be held followed by questions and answers. A flyer will be created; email blasts sent by both the Town and Library; a press release sent to The Somers Record; and it will be advertised on the Partners’ Facebook page. Hopefully Mr. Bayer and Mr. Getman will be willing to share this information with their staff and parents of their student’s.

**Magnets Update** – With the help of Mrs. MacDonald and T3LogoWear owner Tom Newman, a 4” by 6” magnet with the Partners logo and information was created. 1,000

magnets have been ordered and will be used at events. Contact will be made with the Somers Pharmacy to see if they would be willing to hand them out with prescriptions or at the very least have them displayed on their counter. It was also suggested that they be distributed at School Superintendent's Hearings and Town Court.

**5<sup>th</sup> Annual Community Forum** – Dr. Kevin Sabet has been temporarily scheduled to present about recreational marijuana at the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Community Forum in the Somers Middle School Library at 7:00 p.m., however Mrs. Cucchiarella is in the process of arranging for other partners to assist with the cost of his presentation. Mrs. Cucchiarella heard him speak in Rye and in Washington D.C. and thinks it would be excellent if he spoke in Somers. Dr. Sabet will be speaking at New Canaan schools on March 5<sup>th</sup> and Putnam Hospital Center on April 5<sup>th</sup>.

**MedReturn Update** – Police Chief Driscoll reported that in January, 50 pounds of pills from the MedReturn were destroyed at the County facility in Valhalla.

**Underage Alcohol and Tobacco Compliance Check** – The State Police recently conducted an Underage Alcohol and Tobacco Compliance Check at Uncorked Wines and Spirits in the Somers Commons and a clerk was fined for selling to a 19-year old.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**Proposed Legalization of Marijuana Position Memo from Police Chief Driscoll** – Police Chief Driscoll sent a memo to Somers Partners in Prevention Chair Cucchiarella with a copy to the Town Board informing her that he is in full support of the Westchester County Chiefs of Police Association's strong opposition to any legalization that would legalize commercially grown recreational marijuana. Police Chief Driscoll's writing went on further to say that in his many years of law enforcement experiences including numerous arrests relating to drug enforcement, he never encountered a drug abuser that did not start with the use of marijuana.

**Town Board Agenda Item Discussion – Marijuana Legalization vs Prohibition of Marijuana Sales in the Town's Shopping Zones** – Councilman Ciriaco announced that at their February 7<sup>th</sup> Town Board Work Session a resolution was passed not to allow distributors of marijuana in the Town's shopping zones. An email was sent to Mr. Ciriaco from the Partners requesting that officials wait, slow down and continue the research on the proposed legalization of recreational marijuana before making a decision.

**CADCA 29<sup>th</sup> Annual National Leadership Forum** – Mrs. Cucchiarella recently attended the CADCA 29<sup>th</sup> Annual National Leadership Forum in Washington D.C. It was a great networking opportunity and she shared her experiences and literature received with the group. She hopes that next year some Somers students from the high school will attend as there was a student component to the conference.

**Coffee and Conversation** – On February 21<sup>st</sup>, Mr. Ciriaco and Mrs. Cucchiarella attended a Coffee and Conversation at the Ruth Keeler Library hosted by Westchester County Legislator Kitley Covill and North Salem Town Supervisor Warren Lucas. Part of the discussion was about the proposed legalization of marijuana. All are encouraged individually to reach out to Senator Peter Harckham and Assemblyman Kevin Byrne regarding this issue.

**Drug Crisis in Our Backyard** – Carol Christiansen, Co-Founder of Drug Crisis in Our Backyard was in Albany on February 11<sup>th</sup> at the Capitol for a Press Conference and will return to Albany on March 20<sup>th</sup> for “Stand Up for Recovery Day”.

**Somers Central School District Board of Education Meeting** – Mrs. Cucchiarella and Judy Mezey will speak at the March 5<sup>th</sup> Board of Education meeting about the Partners in Prevention and the grant.

**Somers Youth Sports Organization** – On March 6<sup>th</sup>, Mrs. Cucchiarella has been invited to speak to the Board of the Somers Youth Sports Organization about the Partners in Prevention.

**Speaker Opportunity** – Susan and Rick DiNardo are graciously offering to sponsor having Chris and Kathi Sullivan speak at the High School as well as the community about the loss of her daughter to an alcohol overdose. Mrs. Cucchiarella will research further and report back.

In closing, best wishes and thanks were extended to Ms. Baynes as she has taken on a new job with a new agency.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m. The Partners will not meet in March as there will not be a quorum. A meeting will not be held in April, but the Partners will host their annual Community Forum at 7:00 p.m. in the Somers Middle School Library. On May 28<sup>th</sup>, the Partners will sponsor the Resilience film at 7:00 p.m. in the Somers Library Program Room. A short meeting will be held prior to the film. The normal schedule of meetings will resume on June 25<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