

SOMERS PARTNERS IN PREVENTION

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KATHY CUCCHIARELLA
CHAIRMAN

Town of Somers

WESTCHESTER COUNTY, N.Y.

SOMERS TOWN HOUSE
337 ROUTE 202
SOMERS, NY 10589



MEETING MINUTES

December 9, 2014

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. The following members were in attendance: Carol Cirieco, Kathy Cucchiarella, Greg Caron, Patty Otis and Keeva-Young Wright.

Town Councilman Anthony Cirieco and Police Chief Michael Driscoll were present.

Guests present included: Mark Bayer, Somers High School Principal, Resident Sandra Elezaj, Jeff Getman, Somers Middle School Principal, Resident Christine MacDonald, and Student Assistance Counselor Lydia Whitney.

Councilman Garrity stopped to introduce himself and thank the members for all that they are doing.

Minutes – A motion was made by Mrs. Cucchiarella and seconded by Mrs. Young-Wright to approve the minutes of the November 10, 2014 meeting as submitted. All were in favor.

Announcements – Mrs. Cucchiarella will be appointed as Chairman of the Somers Partners in Prevention at the next Town Board meeting. In addition, Mrs. Elezaj and Mrs. MacDonald will be interviewed for permanent positions.

OLD BUSINESS:

Protecting the Youth of Somers: A Community Conversation About the Dangers of Drug and Alcohol Use – Mr. Bayer thanked the Partners for participating in the Protecting the Youth of Somers program held on December 2. The presentation was very successful and grasped the full attention of the students. He was disappointed however that only about 40 parents attended the evening offering. Numerous

organizations were involved in this event and it certainly delivered a good message.

Logo Status – Unfortunately the contest didn't generate much interest. The art teacher in the Somers Middle School has offered to create one. We should have a draft soon.

Communications Brochure – Design – Mrs. Cirieco, Mrs. Cuchiarella, Mrs. Henning, and Mrs. McDonald met and have drafted a tri-fold brochure. They welcome suggestions and input from the other members.

Website – Mrs. McDonald-Carway and Mrs. Schirmer will meet with the Town webmaster in January to discuss proposed changes to the Partners in Prevention website page.

NEW BUSINESS:

Remaining 2014 Budget – Money remaining in the 2014 budget will be used as follows:

Somers High School Yearbook Ad – A half page ad at a cost of \$180 was created by Mrs. MacDonald and shared with all. She will make arrangements for its submission.

Both Mrs. Cirieco and Mrs. Cucchiarella are researching prices for new banners. One will be used for outreach, another for display at Bailey Park, and the third for the display board on Route 100.

If enough money is left, arrangements will be made to purchase a tablecloth for the table used as part of outreach, as well as give-a-ways.

2015 Goals for the Somers Partners in Prevention – All members were asked to come prepared with their 2015 goals for the Partners. The following suggestions were shared:

Mr. Caron – awareness should be the underlying statement; repurposing literature; change the name on the display board on Route 100 and add tracks so the entire board can be used; partner with the Somers Chamber of Commerce, as well as churches, delicatessen's and markets; set up SPIP information distribution centers in Heritage Hills, the Library, and pharmacies; create a calendar of what should be posted on the display board so there is always a fresh message; partnering with Heritage Hills (approaching their clubs, offering a similar program to that held at the Somers High School on December 2, article in their newsletter, etc.); and piggybacking on other local programs.

Police Chief Driscoll – reach out to all seniors in Somers; secure a grant for an underage drinking compliance check in all stores in town that sell alcohol; offer a Narcan training program for civilians, including the school nurses; and increase

involvement of his officers with the students.

Mrs. Keeva Young-Wright – increase awareness in Heritage Hills; partner with the Northern Westchester Hospital Center; have at risk students shadow at the hospital; and help find materials that can be repurposed.

Mr. Getman – offer a grade appropriate Protecting the Youth of Somers program for the students in Primrose and the Intermediate School.

Mrs. Elezaj – resurrect Red Ribbon Week as a community event.

Mrs. Cucchiarella – create a list of who we want to partner with; invite them to an orientation to discuss goals or bring SPIP representatives to them – it is important that all groups are delivering the same message. This event should happen in March.

Mrs. Henning – In her absence, she emailed hers to the members.

All agreed it would make sense to email the list of goals with the intention of creating a plan/agenda, etc. at the January meeting.

Meeting Day Change – Some members are having difficulty attending the meetings due to other conflicts. All will be surveyed for another possible day.

Somers Intermediate School Contact – Mrs. Cucchiarella met with Somers Intermediate School Principal Stacey Elconin about getting involved with the SPIP. She will talk to her counselors and get back in touch.

Somers Leo's – The Somers Leo's reached out to Mrs. Ciriaco about the Partners coming to speak to their group.

Miscellaneous – Police Chief Driscoll reported that the State Troopers conducted an underage drinking compliance check at the Stop and Shop in the Somers Commons, and a ticket was issued. His hope is to secure a grant, as was done in the past to conduct the check in all stores in town that sell alcohol.

As a reminder, needles and liquids cannot be accepted in the Somers Med Return. However, Somers Manor Nursing Home collects needles.

Since the last meeting, a middle aged man overdosed on narcotics and alcohol. The EMT's used Narcan to revive him.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Schirmer, Secretary
Somers Partners in Prevention

cc: Partners in Prevention
Town Board
Town Clerk