

SUBSTANCE ABUSE COUNCIL

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LOUIS CHRISTIANSEN
CHAIRMAN

Town of Somers

WESTCHESTER COUNTY, N.Y.

SOMERS TOWN HOUSE
337 ROUTE 202
SOMERS, NY 10589



MEETING MINUTES

April 9, 2013

Chairman Christiansen called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The following members were in attendance: Meredith Byrne, Louis Christiansen, Carol Cirienco, Linda Frum, Patricia Otis, and Caroline Shenefield-Angiello.

Councilman Tony Cirienco was also present.

Council Restructuring – The Town Board recently appointed new members Meredith Byrne, Louis Christiansen and Caroline Shenefield-Angiello to the Substance Abuse Council. Mr. Christiansen was appointed as Chairman and Denise Schirmer as Secretary.

Meeting Dates – The Council will meet the 2nd Tuesday of each month in the Map Room at the Town House.

Additional Members – Up to three additional members can join the Council. If anyone knows of anyone who is interested, let Mrs. Schirmer know or have that person contact the Supervisor's office.

Introductions – All were asked to introduce themselves and give a brief background.

Display Box Letters and Keys and Files/Materials/Supplies – Former Council Board member Mike Pacella will give Mrs. Schirmer the letters for the Council's display case on Route 100 by the State Trooper's Barracks, as well as the keys. Mrs. Schirmer will email former Council Secretary Betty Martello to see where in the building the files/materials/supplies, etc. might be stored.

Brian's Wish...to end addiction – Mr. Christiansen shared and explained a proposal for Brian's Wish...to end addiction. He would like the Council to use this national

organization as a support system.

New Goal – It was suggested that a new goal to work toward is educating the youth in Somers in a way that their culture and behavior is changed with regard to substance abuse. A “new cool” has to be invented to include branding the Council. Typically the middle and high school students are the target audience. Perhaps programs need to be made available to the elementary and intermediate school children as well. Mr. Christiansen will make arrangements to meet with Somers School District Superintendent Ray Blanch to discuss this further. After that meeting, school principals, school student assistance counselors and the PTA need to be contacted.

Outreach – Outreach is important to give the Council exposure. A Relay for Life team should be established and registered for the May 31 event that is held in between the Somers Intermediate and Middle Schools. An informational table should be sponsored at the Town-wide Independence Day Celebration in Reis Park on June 29. Other suggestions included sponsoring essay and poster contests. The once Council sponsored Red Ribbon Week should be reinstated.

Next Steps – It was suggested that some short and long term goals, as well as the steps needed to accomplish them be discussed at the May meeting. Consideration should be given to getting involved with programs such as Prescription Give Back, Responsible Beverage and Alcohol Stings.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m. The next regular monthly meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 14, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. in the Map Room at the Town House.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Schirmer, Secretary
Somers Substance Abuse Council

cc: Substance Abuse Council
Town Board
Town Clerk
Police Chief

