



Regular Meeting Minutes of April 28, 2026
619 Main St, Kibbe Fuller Classroom

Members and Staff in Attendance: Tim Keeney, Bob Schmidt, Margot Martello, Trooper Matthew Burzdak, Michael Szafir, Kim Littig, Joanne Nichting, Kassie Mashiak, Arianna Flagg, Jen Griger, and Matthew Cox

Guests: Maria Santilli, Youth Peer Bridger, Advocacy Unlimited

Call to Order: Matthew Cox called the meeting to order at 10:40 a.m.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Kassie Mashiak moved to approve the meeting minutes of March 24, 2026. Michael Szafir seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion carried unanimously.

Presentation: Youth Peer Bridger Program

Matthew Cox introduced Maria Santilli, who presented information on the Youth Peer Bridger Program launched earlier this year.

The program employs specially trained adults with lived experience to provide peer support and facilitate supportive conversations with youth ages 14–17. It is designed to help youth work through life challenges, manage stress and emotions, set and achieve goals, and connect with community resources.

This is a non-clinical, strengths-based program offering personalized, confidential, and non-judgmental support through phone, text, video, and in-person interactions. The program is funded through a grant from the Connecticut Department of Children and Families (DCF). Maria Santilli noted that ongoing training and professional development are core components of the program.

Discussion

Members shared the importance of keeping parents informed and involved in youth programming, while also understanding the need for students to have access to confidential support services when appropriate. Maria agreed and emphasized that all Bridgers are required to be Mandated Reporters.

Arianna thanked members of the Somers Police and Fire Departments who helped make the April 25th Drug Take Back Day successful. The event was expanded to include a stop at Woodcrest Elderly Housing.

Adjournment

With no further business or announcements, Bob Schmidt moved to adjourn the meeting. Michael Szafir seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Matthew Cox

Minutes are not official until approved at a subsequent meeting.