

## Power of Together 2

### Meeting Minutes – October 10, 2017

Dave Schulz opened this last meeting of 2017 by welcoming the approximately 70 attendees, including our new members. He then reviewed a handout which outlined our contributions to date. Its primary message was that at this - our 7th meeting - we will have raised almost \$60,000...in just 7 hours.

He then announced that our meeting dates will change for next year. Due to the busy holiday season, as well as the fact that January can be a financially demanding month, we have decided to have our first meeting of 2018 in February. The dates for next year are: February 13, May 8, August 14, and November 13.

Dave then introduced Tammy and Joe de la Cruz who were representing Community Speaks Out, the recipient of our July donation of \$10,450. They movingly described the reason they helped create this organization whose mission is to reduce the stigma of heroin/opioid addiction, to assist the families whose loved ones are part of this nationwide epidemic, and to help people get into treatment.

They expressed their surprise and gratitude for the size of our donation and how important it has been for their ongoing operation. These funds have helped to pay for the office space they have recently opened in Groton – which is enormously important for so that families can have a safe and private place to meet - as well as financial help to provide support for those entering into treatment and sober living.

Tammy and Joe are now members of PoT2. They felt our goals were the same as CSO: people helping people.

Eight members then submitted their names to “the hat,” and the following three were drawn:

1. Spike Lobdell, on behalf of NESS, New England Science and Sailing. He illustrated how NESS helps over 2,200 kids, from all types of communities, learn hands-on science, technology, engineering and math, as well as teaching confidence and self-reliance.

He would specifically use these funds to rebuild NESS's docks, which are currently sinking and in great need of repair.

2. Betty Smith, representing the Mystic Chamber Foundation. An all-volunteer group, this organization works to promote our local and unique business community through sponsorship and development of educational and community service programs, specifically focused on youth skill development.

3. Mike Herod, representing the Eastern CT Community Gardens Association. An all- volunteer group which, through developing numerous gardens at local schools, churches, low-income senior centers, group homes, etc., is focused on increasing food security and healthful food choices for a wide and diverse group who are in need, or for the facilities which are creating those food choices.

Receiving the most votes was NESS.

For those unable to attend the meeting, **please send or drop off your check for \$100**, made out to NESS, to Karen Stone, 217 Noank Road, Mystic, CT. 06355.

As always, we hope to present our collective contribution within a within a week to 10 days, and we generally have 97% participation by then. Let's get to 100%!

Note: Tammy and Joe mentioned that this Saturday there would be a Sober Softball Tournament that runs from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. at Washington Park in Groton.