

Power of Together 2 Meeting Minutes, July 12, 2016

Upon entering, members received permanent name tags and envelopes for use at each meeting.

The meeting opened at 7:05 with approximately 50 people attending. Gae Melford began the discussion with an update on membership announcing that 12 more members had joined and we were now 55 strong. (Note: by the end of the meeting, 3 more had joined bringing our total membership to 58.)

Dave Schulz reviewed the nominating and voting process. He then welcomed Dave Cruthers who was representing MASH (Mystic Area Shelter & Hospitality), which was the recipient of our first contribution of \$4,300 this past April. Dave described how those monies specifically impacted 6 individual families, each facing some sort of financial hardship which placed them at risk of homelessness. In one case, it was used for a Security Deposit, in the other 5 the monies were used to subsidize past due and current rent payments. Within those families were 9 children, all of whom benefited greatly from our contribution.

After the MASH presentation, the nominating hat was passed around and members submitted their names for proposal consideration. Three were selected from the hat and presented as follows:

1. DPNC Scholarship Fund presented by Lori Calobrisi. She spoke of the importance of giving low income children the opportunity of spending time outdoors and that currently there were no funds to do so at DPNC.
2. The New England Science and Sailing Foundation (NESS) presented by Spike Lobdell. NESS has greatly expanded its reach and is now engaged in providing over 4,500 students with experiential learning activities. 56% of those students receive some kind of financial aid.
3. The Groton Public Library presented by Susan Kietzman. Susan described how the library was an inclusive and valuable community resource servicing thousands of people in our community. Their budget had recently been reduced by \$250,000 specifically impacting their ability to remain the one library in the county that is open on Sundays.

The P.o.T. community voted and the Groton Public Library received the most votes.

We received 40 checks for a current total of \$4,000.00. 18 more checks are anticipated in the next few days, bringing our total donation to \$5,800.00.

The meeting was then adjourned.