

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Power of Together 2**  
**October 11, 2016, 7:00 pm**

Approximately 40 members of Power of Together 2 met on October 11, 2016 at the Mystic VFW Hall. Barb Silver Holt welcomed the members, both old and new, reported that the membership had grown to perhaps 80 members, and reviewed the procedure for pitching a cause and voting.

Betty Anne Reiter, Groton's Director of Library Services, then reported to the group on the impact our gift (in July) of \$5,700 had on the Groton Public Library. With our funds, along with some savings due to retirement of staff members, the library has been able to reinstitute Sunday hours for the fall and winter. The library conducted a survey of patrons and the resounding message was that patrons value and take advantage of the Sunday hours. Betty Anne shared comments from some of the patrons that illustrated the positive impact the expanded hours are having in the community. Patrons come, not just from Groton, but from many surrounding towns as well and the Sunday hours are having a broad impact. In addition, a youth group at the library was inspired by our gift to make their own gift to fund one Sunday this winter. It will be called "Super Sunday" and the youth group plans to offer superhero crafts for children. Betty Anne thanked the group for having such a positive impact on the library.

Three names were drawn for pitches and the organizations pitched were Mystic Museum of Art (Dawn Salerno), Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center's (DPNC) Giving Garden (Susan Charette), and New England Science and Sailing Foundation (NESS) (Spike Lobdell). Mystic Museum of Art planned to use the funds for scholarships and Dawn described the positive impact of art on the patrons' lives. The Giving Garden planned to use the funds to help purchase equipment including a root washer, a six-row planter, and expansion of their drip irrigation system. Susan outlined the positive impact the garden has had on the food-insecure of New London. NESS planned to use the funds for financial aid and Spike described the positive impact NESS has had on student attendance, behavior and grades at Bennie Dover Middle School in New London.

The group voted on the three proposals and DPNC's Giving Garden was awarded the funds. Because our membership has grown to 81, \$8,100 will be donated to DPNC's Giving Garden.

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm.

The next meeting will be on January 10, 2017 at 7 PM at the Mystic VFW Hall.