



FDTC Monthly Meeting, September, 2015

Megan English Braga introduced the evening's movie titled, "What Happened Here, the Untold Story of Addiction on Cape Cod." The producers were Cape Codders, **Nate Roberson** and **Sam Tarplin**. **Nate** was present to show the film and answer questions.

Before the movie showing, **Lloyd Beckett**, Treasurer, reported that we have \$5700 in the Treasury. **Janet Azarovitz** of the Downwinders group asked for our support of the Sarah Peake and Dan Wolf proposed bill on the Pilgrim Power Plant. She asked for support of the Orleans Democratic Town Committee's resolution to support that legislation. We will take a vote at the October meeting on support.

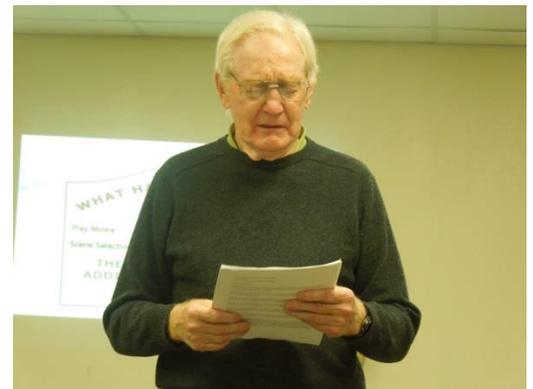
Megan asked that anyone interested in running for an official spot on the Town Committee contact her soon. We have a number of openings on the Town Committee and are seeking interested people who will work hard for the Democrats and are interested in an official position. The slate is due this November with an election during the primary election in March, 2016.

Lou Turner asked for input for future monthly meeting topics. In October, Bob Pelletreau will speak about "The U.S. and Iran; After the Agreement." He asked the nine delegates to the convention on the 19th to share their reactions from this issues convention as part of the November meeting.



Nate Robertson

Megan introduced **Nate Robertson**, one of the film's producers and founding member of the Recovering Youth Coalition which brings together those who are in recovery and who want to be involved in helping to find solutions to the addiction problem in the region. He spoke about his personal life and journey. He pointed out that he needed to recover from drug addiction himself before anything worthwhile could happen in his life. The Cape Cod community has rallied to help make the movie by funding and giving moral



Lou Turner

support. The real untold story is the story of Recovery. People who recover are often silent because of the stigma of addiction. He said that there needs to be a public policy shift to being open about substance abuse in order to work on this issue. In fact, 80 percent of crime on the Cape is drug related so this is a many faceted issue.

He then showed the movie. Part 1 was titled, "Stories." Several young people spoke about their addiction problems in very moving words. Part 2 was titled, "Opinions." This section explored reasons for recovery and opinions about what should be done to help.

Questions and Answers and comments from the audience followed. In general people felt that it was important to talk about recovery on a policy level to make recovery more accessible to people. There are gaps in treatment if no insurance is available and homelessness sometimes results from delayed or inadequate treatment. Addicts should seek help as early as possible. Community Rehabilitation Centers are needed and money needs to be committed. People of color are treated differently and that needs to be addressed. Stigma means that treatment is delayed and even after detox, the personal crisis continues. Addicts themselves need to be part of the experience of openly discussing addiction and planning for rehab. **The Falmouth Prevention Partnership** assists those seeking help. Their focus is described on their website as:

Members of the Partnership represent a wide-range of community involvement. Since 2008, the Partnership has been assessing the extent of the substance abuse problem in Falmouth, and developing and implementing prevention strategies that are unique to our community.

The evening was a very useful reminder of this major societal problem and its continuing effect on our community. Members felt the movie should be shown in schools in Falmouth and as often as possible.

Photos from our August Picnic at Dillingham Place:



Scott Simenas and Mary Harris, Picnic Chefs



Rep. Tim Madden, Charlie McCaffrey, Michael Blanton, Bourne selectman



The Walkers and Jean Adams

Calendar and Special Notes:

The October FDTC monthly meeting is on October 21st and the topic is “ The U.S. and Iran; After the Agreement.” The speaker will be Bob Pelletreau. Please remember to bring non-perishable goods to the Gus Canty meeting, 7 p.m. for the Falmouth Service Center.

Please remember to contact **Megan English Braga** if you are interested in running for a position on the Falmouth Democratic Town Committee. The ballot names are due this November for an election in March 2016. In addition, if you have any topics you would like to see covered in the monthly meetings, please contact **Lou Turner**. Email addresses and phone numbers are below.

Submitted by **Kirstin Moritz**, Newsletter Editor and **Martha Gillis**, Photographer

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Annual Membership Fiscal Year: April 1 to March 31, 2016

Name:

Precinct:

Address and Telephone:

Email Address:

Elected Committee Member (\$25 a year)_____

Associate Member (\$15 a year)_____

Newsletter by U.S. Mail is \$10 extra a year_____

Total Donation: \$_____ Send check to FDTC, P.O. Box 312, Falmouth, MA 02541