CONNECTICUT COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
Minutes of the 102nd Annual Meeting
September 17, 2025
Heritage Hotel, 522 Heritage Rd, Southbury, CT

I. Welcome, Call to Order, and Highlights

Kathy Bower, chair of the Board of Trustees, welcomed attendees to the Foundation's 102nd Annual Meeting, called the meeting to order, and introduced 3D Music Academy for a brief performance.

Ms. Bower recognized donors, volunteers, staff, and nonprofit leaders in attendance and shared highlights from the year to date including:

- Over $5.7M distributed in grants to nonprofit organizations.
- More than $1.2M in scholarships were distributed to support over 400 local students.
- The fall grant round with over $2M in requests.
- Brief stories highlighting donor generosity and community impact.
- During Give Local Greater Waterbury and Litchfield Hills, over 7,000 donors raised more than $2.5M for 330 local organizations.
- Over $521,000 have been awarded through the Grassroots Grants program since its launch in 2016, with over $120,000 grants awarded in the past year.
- More than $50,000 grants and awards have been distributed through collective giving groups.

Ms. Bower offered gratitude for attendees' support to help meet those milestones and accomplishments.

II. Business Meeting

a. Approval of minutes – Ms. Bower referred members to the posted minutes from the 101st Annual Meeting of the Foundation, which was held in person at the Heritage Hotel on September 10, 2024, and called for a motion to approve the minutes.

MOTION to approve the minutes from the 2024 Annual Meeting as presented. Motion carried.

b. Election of Trustees

Janie McDermott, vice chair of the Foundation's board and chair of the Governance Committee, introduced the election of trustees.
Ms. McDermott introduced first-term and Ms. Bower introduced second-term nominees.

Ms. Bower placed Patricia Lindenman, Dr. Steven Minkler, William Rybczyk into nomination for an initial three-year term ending in 2028. Ms. Bower placed James Higgins, Janie McDermott, and Adrienne Parkmond into nomination for a second three-year term ending in 2028.

Ms. Bower formally offered all of the nominees for a vote by members and called for a motion.

MOTION to elect the nominees as trustees to the Connecticut Community Foundation for a three-year term. Motion carried.

c. Departing Trustee Recognition
Kathy Bower acknowledged departing trustee Kathleen Brochhausen for her board service with the Foundation.

d. Gratitude
Ms. Bower offered gratitude for all of the trustees, committee members and other volunteers who support the Foundation's evolving work.

III. Adjournment – Ms. Bower adjourned the business meeting.

IV. Trustee Fund Award Presentations

Tina Reardon and Martha Bernstein, chair and vice chair of the Trustee Fund, introduced the Trustee Fund and the annual Trustee Fund Awards.

Ms. Reardon and Ms. Berstein presented the 2025 Trustee Fund award for collaboration and/or innovation to:

1) Jane Doe No More for their work on a film adaptation of a musical theatrical production giving voice to survivors of sexual crimes.
2) The Mattatuck Museum for the Memories @ The Matt program, presented in partnership with the Alzheimer's Association, to create a space for connection, creativity and care for people living with Alzeimer's and their caregivers.

Ms. Reardon and Ms. Bernstein shared the names of five other organizations that were nominated for the 2025 Trustee Fund award.

V. President's Remarks

Kathy Taylor, president and CEO, shared remarks on how attendees and our community could *Dare to Thrive.* Messages noted the Foundation's continued commitment to meeting essential needs, and that believing in thriving over surviving for our community would take persistence and a community that works together for better outcomes. Ms. Taylor noted the challenges for nonprofits and philanthropy, as well as federal and state policy and funding shifts that have consequences for the state and local community.

Ms. Taylor highlighted the Foundation's history and shared a vision for the Foundation's future work, inviting attendees to lean into hope and to take action as we dream for a better community.

Ms. Taylor shared new Foundation initiatives for 2026 and kicked off the annual appeal, inviting attendees to contribute to the Impact NOW Fund to support pressing needs in the community.

Ms. Taylor offered gratitude to the Foundation staff team, the Foundation's board of trustees led by Kathy Bower.

The program ended with a video highlighting the Foundation's community impact.

Connecticut Community Foundation

Attendees of the 2025 Annual Meeting and Summer Social

Foundation Members

Kelly Anelli
Martha Bernstein
Kathy Bower
Kathleen Brochhausen
Isabelle V. Curtiss
Douglas Donato
Christine Edelson
Judith Eslami
Michael Feinberg
Lynn Franklin-Henry
Elizabeth Frew
Peter Frew
Deborah Fuller
Avery Gaddis
Ron Garfunkel
Carol Haskins
Charles Henry
Forest Herron
James Higgins
Kristen Jacoby
Elaine Lau
Richard Lau
Ingrid Manning
Rosanne Martino
Wayne McCormack
Elizabeth McCormack
Janie McDermott
Ann Merriam Feinberg
Cynthia Merrick
Peter North
Donna Palomba
Karen Powell
Christine Reardon
Chris Rempfer
Marjorie Ross
Joshua Royer
David Sfara
Jean Solomon
Kathy Taylor
Dorothy West
Randolph Richardson

Other Attendees

Sarah Alexander
Noelia Alicea
Maria Arole
Jayleigh Barry
Mark Berardi
Douglas Bibbey
Althea Marshall Brooks
Martha Brown
Jeremy Bunblasky
Bob Burns
Ken Cabral
Josh Carey
Maureen Conard
Sarah DeFilippis
Audrie DeRouen
Trayvonn Diaz
Mary Douglas Bibbey
Judy Doyle
Seth Duke
Sarah Edelson
Emily Eisen
Jessica Ervin
Francesca Evangelista
Ethel Grant
Audrey Harrell
Chelsey Harris
Megan Houlihan-Aceto
Ana Iturbides
Jennifer Johnston
Darrell Jones
Sheri Jones
Deb Kelleher
Mary Lacilla
Chloé Langer
Vianca Lazaro
Carrie Lee Bunblasky
Rachael Levine
Sam Macary
Kim McAllister
Colin McDermott
Patrick McKenna
Barbara Mechler
Sue Mellitt
Beth Messina
Michael Messina
Steven Minkler
Nalia Morrison
Fred Newman
Ella Newman
Donna Palomba
Yadira Perez
Lisa Perrella
Alicia Pittman
Tricia Poirier
Jeanine Reiner
Linda Riddick Barron
Barbara Ryer
Rich Sandler
Michele Savaadra-Slappey
Gina Scherbner
Judy Soda
Elma Solomon
Kara Steinfeld
Michelle Strawder
Bilal Tajildeen
Michael Taylor
Don Thompson
Wendy Tyson-Wood
Monroe Webster

Other Attendees Continued

Josh Feliciano
Zakiyah Gathers
John Monteleone
Susan Monteleone
Carrie Zimyeski
3D Music Academy Singers