

## **Minutes of the 11/9/15 Staying Put Board Meeting**

4:30-5:27 pm in the Congregational Church Parlor, New Canaan.

**Present:** George Brakeley, Janet Lanaway, Jim Cole, Judy Bentley, Judy Johnson, Lila Coleman, Lois Sandberg, Nancy Helle, Pris Thomas, Cynn timer Yates, Sue Scannell, Tom Ferguson, Tom Gnuse, Barb Achenbaum and Donna Simone.

**Minutes:** The minutes of the 10/13/15 meeting were unanimously approved.

**Annual Appeal Update:** The appeal was mailed on October 15.

**Operations Report:** Barb Achenbaum reported that requests for rides and services were fairly typical in October. 48 drivers gave rides to 41 members. The highest service demands were for home maintenance, tech and health services.

**Advisory Council:** Barb Achenbaum reported that the Advisory Council meeting went well. The group suggested that Staying Put expand its outreach to adult children with parents in town. The list is now at 63 and growing. Amy Freyre has graciously agreed to host a brainstorming session in January. Tom Ferguson suggested that an agenda outlining specific outcomes be sent out in advance of the event. Lois Sandberg suggested that we also reach out to this group to identify the names of adult children who live out of town, but whose parents are still residents. The Advisory Council also suggested that Staying Put host informational coffees in the larger condo associations. The Membership Committee will pursue this at its January meeting.

**Community:** Barb Achenbaum and Judy Bentley met with Jim Lisher to discuss recruitment for the Telehealth project, which will now include 150 participants. In addition, Barb submitted an internship request to New Canaan High School. The proposed project is to develop a series of photojournalistic "Senior Stories" to be used as part of Staying Put's social media efforts.

Donna Simone reported the dinner on Sunday where seven Staying Put members were paired with teams from the Congregational Church Youth Group was a great success. An additional inter-generational activity, the National Charity League delivered 52 decorated pumpkins to members in October. They will deliver holiday stockings to 25 members in early December.

### **Board Committees/Reports:**

**Membership:** Two members moved away in October, Mary Power and Hana Avitan, and one member passed away Toni Woolworth. We have one new member, Joan Harmody. As of October 31st, our membership is at 273 members (218 households).

There were 13 new members at the Luncheon at Barb's on November 4th. It was a jovial affair where new friendships were born. Barb thanked Lila Coleman and Priscilla Thomas for their contributions.

Barb announced that the staff is putting together a plan for the Gift Membership drive. They are investigating advertising on newcanaanite.com and will meet with Nancy Helle to plan print publicity. Donna announced that Staying Put has a free ad on the Chamber website as part of their town gift certificate campaign. Gift certificates for use at many locations in town will be available in the office.

**Publicity:** Lois Sandberg reported that the fall issue of the Newsletter was sent out with the Appeal letter. The next issue will be published in January. The Advertiser published the article she submitted about the Appeal at the best possible time, the week of the mailing. Nancy Helle is planning to submit a story to the media about Jane Williams and Judy Bentley, the New Canaan winners of the Light-a-Fire award.

**Events:** Judy Johnson reported nine member events in October with a total of 115 attendees. The highlights were the Tour and Tea at Grace Farms and the entertaining and delicious Halloween Luncheon at Lois Sandberg's. Judy Johnson reviewed upcoming events in December. Lila Coleman suggested that we schedule another Grace Farms Tour in the spring. Tom Ferguson suggested we try to increase publicity for our more successful events. Janet Lanaway noted that she saw a list of Staying Put events on Channel 79.

Donna reported that the Cabaret in the Gnuses' home was lovely. Jeanne's very generous friends contributed \$530 to Staying Put in her honor. She also announced that the Annual Birthday Party is scheduled for January 10th at St. Mark's at 2 pm. Entertainment will be provided by the Bluenotes.

**Volunteers:** Donna Simone reported 51 attendees at the Volunteer reception on November 4th. She thanked Judy Johnson for organizing the very successful event.

Barb closed the meeting with a Care Connections update. In October, 16 volunteers were in touch with 21 members. She shared Bobby Chapdelaine's thoughts as she was moving away: "This is my last morning in CT. I just want to say thank you to Staying Put for being so wonderful, especially my many drivers."

The next meeting will be a Board Reception on Monday, December 14th at 5:30 pm at Barb Achenbaum's. Spouses are welcome.