

Minutes of the 2/17/15 Staying Put Board Meeting

4:30-5:30 PM at the Congregational Church of New Canaan.

Present: Barb Achenbaum, Judy Bentley, George Brakeley, Lyn Chivvis, Jim Cole, Tom Ferguson, Tom Gnuse, Nancy Helle, Phil Ives, Judy Johnson, Janet Lanaway, Steve Orteig, Lois Sandberg, Priscilla Thomas, Tom Turrentine.

Minutes: The minutes of the January meeting were approved.

Operations: Barb Achenbaum reported 345 requests for services in January; 218 were for rides. Rides were given by 47 of our Volunteers. Barb said the reorganization of responsibilities in the office is going well, with more time given to Donna Simone for her personal touch with members. Donna spent a lot of time in January with members who were in hospital, Waveny or at the Inn. Cathy Fitzpatrick is managing the Assisted Rides program. Kathy Collins spends more time with members, does “back-up” rides, and is developing a list of Volunteers who will receive eBlasts for random rides and requests. Wednesdays have been designated “Errand Day”.

Membership: Sadly, a member passed away, Violet Doherty. Staying Put had 23 membership renewals in January and 2 new members.

Volunteers: We are recruiting volunteers to connect by phone with isolated members. What was called Friendly Calls has been renamed Care Connections. The Newsletter has a special insert to thank our volunteers and to recruit new ones. We will hold back-to-back Volunteer meetings to encourage more people to drive our members. The regular monthly thank you drivers’ coffee will be given on March 5th.

Events: The January Birthday Party was attended by members, volunteers, and Board members. The party received publicity in the local paper, thanks to Nancy Helle. Jeanne Gnuse gave a lovely lunch. Jim Bach sponsored a lesson by Roger Silva on assisting those who are walking-impaired. Upcoming events include lunch at Donna Simone’s, a lunch at Ching’s and a program on dementia at Lapham on February 19th. The board received an invitation to: “Best Practices for Boards” on March 2nd. Fairfield County’s Community Foundation Giving Day is March 5th. On March 9th Jim Bach will present a history lesson, “Yankee vs. Yorkee,” at the New Canaan Historical Society. On March 17th there will be a Staying Put party at a mysterious, undisclosed location. The Event’s committee is looking to set-up a tour of the Gores Pavilion followed by lunch at Barb’s home. On April 15th Columbia Presbyterian will present a talk about diabetes – The Good News and the Bad News. The June fundraiser will be held at Tanis & John Erdmann’s home on June 14th.

Grants: Barb talked with Cynthia Gorey at the New Canaan Community Foundation requesting a grant to support Staying Put volunteers – the grant would support the salaries of Cathy Fitzpatrick and Kathy Collins.

Community: Barb and Judy Bentley took a tour with Peter Lane of the Halo wellness studio. Halo is committed to helping baby boomers lead a healthy lifestyle. Activities include exercise and health classes; Norwalk Hospital will provide physical therapy, reiki and acupuncture. People can pay per service, or monthly; or providers will charge clients per session. Judy will explore senior discounts for SP members.

Board/Committee Reports: Board retreat on March 12th from 9-3 at St. Mark's with Lee Barnes and Rodgers Harper moderating. Cost \$100.

Barb has been inundated with calls about how to start a "village." She created an info packet for requests. George Brakeley finished interviewing for Staying Put Archives. Once the Archives are on the website, requests will be referred there for info. Fairfield County Community Foundation has underwritten an advertisement/article to be published by all the Hersam papers about all the villages that have sprung up in Fairfield County.