

Minutes of the 4/13/15 Staying Put Board Meeting

4:30-5:28 PM at the Congregational Church of New Canaan.

Present: Barb Achenbaum, Judy Bentley, George Brakeley, Lyn Chivvis, Jim Cole, Lila Coleman, Tom Ferguson, Patti Geanakos, Tom Gnuse, Nancy Helle, Phil Ives, Peggy Jay, Judy Johnson, Janet Lanaway, Steve Orteig, Lois Sandberg, Sue Scannell, Donna Simone, Priscilla Thomas, Tom Turrentine.

Minutes: The minutes for the March 2015 meeting were approved.

Operations: Requests for services in March were 385, and 261 were rides. Forty-two volunteers gave rides to 45 members, totaling 1,775 miles. As the number of ride requests continues to increase, Staying Put may consider putting a cap on rides again.

Membership: Barb and Donna have been setting up home visits for members. Calling the member to be sure they would like a visit and pairing the member with an appropriate volunteer. Some of these members detain the Meals on Wheels volunteers when they need to deliver meals to others in a timely manner. Our visits may help resolve this issue for MOWs volunteers, as well as, be a treat for our members and volunteers. Sadly, Ned Swanberg passed away last week. These losses always impact the staff and membership.

Almost all the “winter” dues have been collected, with some members opting not to renew. Some decline because they don’t use our services and others retain full-time help and no longer need Staying Put’s services.

Villages: Barb and Judy spent some time on “outreach” with a group starting a village in Ivins, PA. They also attended a Fairfield Westchester Aging in Place meeting. The Bronxville village discussed setting up a social membership. The New Canaan Community Foundation is running a series of 10 ads in the local papers about 5 towns that have villages.

Volunteers: Staying Put has two new opportunities for volunteers: Care Connections and Angels. The Angels will provide help with member requests for errands, technology and home maintenance. Barb and Judy had a meeting with New Canaan Community Foundation to discuss a grant to hire a volunteer coordinator and support the Volunteer committee.

Giving Day/Annual Appeal: Giving Day was a big success, and many thanks go to Patti Geanakos, Joel Pelzner and Sue Scannell for organizing. Barb gave each Board member their annual appeal list to review and make any corrections. The office would like the lists back ASAP to update the new database.

Events: There were six events in March, and Judy’s St Paddy’s Day lunch was a highpoint. Two 95 year-old members became fast friends and now call each other daily. The Jim Bach lecture was well attended and the Bridal Lunch and stories were fun. Staying Put is coordinating two events with the library: the Robin Goland lecture on Diabetes, April 15, and the program on Dementia, May 6. The Alliance of Business Professionals and Staying Put are sponsoring the Dementia program. We are pleased to be working in coordination with the library and with the Business Alliance. Our first Art Show will be on May 8th. Sixteen members will show a variety of artworks, some of which will be for sale. Artists include Antoinette Vardamis, Marjorie

Aronson, Ro Bassett, Gloria Major-Brown, Charlotte Brown, Maru Brown and Bill Sessions. The New Canaan Sewing Group's annual Spring sale is April 17th at St. Marks.

Board/Committee Reports: Barb thanked the Board members who came to the Board Retreat. The facilitators, Lee and Rodgers, are writing a recap for the Board.

George has written all but one of the interviews he did, and will work with Patti to get the Archival on the internet. This information should be password accessible, and belong to Staying Put. The Board was reminded that Beacon Hill charged the Staying Put originators \$300 for the book they wrote about starting their village!

Website: Patti is working on a new website and met with Barb and Judy to determine what needs to be updated. The design will be changed, and the "platform" will be made accessible to the Cathy Fitzpatrick and Kathy Collins so they can update information and photos. Patti will contact Pete Stair to get his input.

Advisory Council: Will meet Wed April 15; one important topic, how Staying Put supports seniors in this community. There will also be discussion on a "meet and greet" social event in June for Council members to meet the Board, especially new Board members.

Membership: The Membership Committee includes Peggy Jay, Phil Ives, Sue Scannell, Steve Orteig, Lila Coleman, Judy Bentley, Priscilla Thomas, Jim Cole, and Joel Pelzner. They will continue to provide handouts at various markets in town, Halo, Farmer's Market, Sidewalk Sale, and Caffeine & Carburetors. New brochures will be distributed. The Committee will have parties for prospects and to introduce new members. Barb reminded the Board that Staying Put should continue to get "better, not bigger." Retreat findings, included the importance of retaining engaged people in each of Staying Put's three constituencies: members, volunteers, and donors. Overall, the need to connect on a social level was emphasized.