

## Minutes of the 6/8/15 Staying Put Board Meeting

Monday June 8 at 4:00-5:00 PM at the home of Barb Achenbaum in New Canaan.

**Present:** Barb Achenbaum, Judy Bentley, George Brakeley, Lyn Chivvis, Lila Coleman, Tom Ferguson, Tom Gnuse, Nancy Helle, Chris Hussey, Phil Ives, Peggy Jay, Judy Johnson, Janet Lanaway, Steve Orteig, Joel Pelzner, Sue Scannell, Priscilla Thomas, Cynn timer Yates.

**Minutes:** The Minutes of the May meeting were approved.

**Operations:** Barb reported 389 requests for services in May, of which 287 were for rides! In May 48 drivers gave rides to 46 members for a total of 1,780 miles. Because Staying Put had fewer members in crisis, there were fewer visits; Donna continues to spend much time talking to and caring for families in crisis. Kathy Collins continues to organize the Care Connections program. 28 volunteers phone/visit 37 members. There are 9 more members to be added to the care connections program. The social time - so valuable for our less outgoing members - is demonstrated by these quotes: "I have gotten together with N. several times. We went to Bankwell's shredding day together;" and, "I have talked with H. and she is quite lively and happy. She is a very good chatter!"

New Canaan High School students, Kate Blasco and Erik Burns, are working under the guidance of Diane Sorcher to make a video interviewing members about their views of New Canaan. While on the subject of collaborating with youth in Town, Barb Achenbaum mentioned that Caroline Ainsworth, who is a Youth Coordinator at the Congregational Church, suggested the members of the Youth Group "Fish" at church develop a relationship with 7 members of Staying Put. The Board embraced this idea, especially because it will help teach the next generation about how fulfilling it is to be a Volunteer. It was noted that The National Charity League also volunteers for us.

**Membership:** Barb said we had one new member join in May, and she expects more to join in June. Next year renewals will be sent in January, which will clear up a lot of misunderstanding about when the dues for membership are due.

**Events:** Barb Achenbaum, Judy Bentley and Phil Ives are in the process of setting up Lunch and Learn lectures with doctors from Stamford Hospital. Staying Put will collaborate with Lapham Center. The Annual June Fundraiser Picnic is June 14<sup>th</sup> at the Erdmann's. At today's count there are 83 people coming. The pizza truck will arrive at 5pm. The Board will serve drinks and snacks; the National Charity League will help serve. One of the high school interns, Kyle Street, will organize a 3-piece band to play some patriotic songs for 15-20 minutes.

Staying Put table will share a table with CERT and the Getabout at the July 18 Sidewalk Sale. There will be brochures and Volunteer fliers to hand out as well as "chili-powdered popcorn" donated by Angela Colabella. owner of Little Chili. Staying Put and CERT will also be promoting Smart 911.

A special Tour of the Gores Pavillion in Irwin Park this will be held June 11, at 10:30. Janet Lindstrom will start the "tour" and then introduce Helen Risom Beluschi, a volunteer for Staying Put and an architect. Then the group will go across the street to Barb's for sustenance of the more edible sort.

Barb will coordinate the Sheffield Island outing with Getabout's Head of Operations, Bob Spence.

**Publicity:** Barb met with Greg Reilly of the New Canaan Advertiser to increase awareness of elders and elder services through articles in the paper. He suggested 700 word articles, one each on safety, Town services for the elders, and transportation for seniors. Nancy Helle has an article for the New Canaan Advertiser on volunteer opportunities besides driving, e.g., Care Connections (making friendly phone calls and visiting).