

Minutes of the 7/13/15 Staying Put Board Meeting

4:30-5:21 PM at the Congregational Church of New Canaan.

Present: Barb Achenbaum, Judy Bentley, George Brakeley, Lyn Chivvis, Jim Cole, Lila Coleman, Tom Ferguson, Nancy Helle, Peggy Jay, Judy Johnson, Steve Orteig, Joel Pelzner, Lois Sandberg, Tom Turrentine, Cynnie Yates

Minutes: The Minutes of the June meeting were approved

Operations: Barb Achenbaum reported that we gave 402 rides in June. These rides were given by 51 volunteers to 42 members.

Membership: Dave and Vivian Johnson joined in June. It was noted with sadness that Rosie Lynch died on July 11, with Donna by her side. Rosie had been at home and in hospice care. Kathy Collins had spent much of the week visiting Rosie. Rosie will be missed by all who knew her.

Events: Barb Achenbaum and Phil Ives have been working with Stamford Hospital to set-up a “Lunch and Learn” program at Lapham Center. Upcoming Lunch and Learn topics are Balance, and Stress Management. Staying Put will promote Lapham’s upcoming Hobby Fair and the Yellow Dot program

Other outreach programs include matching 7 teams of youths from the Congregational Church with 7 Staying Put members. The kids will develop relationships with their elders - bringing cookies, singing (caroling), sharing a dinner and perhaps helping with yard clean up where needed.

Community: Outreach activities included the New Canaan High School students who made a video highlighting why New Canaan is a great place. Barb Achenbaum’s article on preventing a fall was published in the New Canaan advertiser.

Board/Committee Reports:

Events: Judy Johnson has offered to take over as Chair. The 7 events in June were attended by 180 members and the picnic at the Erdmanns’ was “glorious.” The lunch at Sue Scannell’s was also a big success as was the tour of The Gores Pavillion and lunch at Barb’s, which was attended by Pam Gores along with 26 others. Board members are encouraged to “host” events. Barb mentioned the Friday Mead Park picnics as a good chance to meet members and passed around a sign-up sheet for exactly that and many Board members signed up to be Board Ambassadors. Lila and Jill Stevens will be doing a Hawaiian program at the Inn on September 8th. Board members helped man the tent at the July 18 Sidewalk Sale.

Archives: George Brakeley and Patti Geanakos will decide on the platform to use for the Archives.

Membership: Peggy Jay reported membership has realized that simply dropping off a bunch of brochures in an office is not effective in getting people to join. Prospects have to be “ambushed” at these venues and given a good sales pitch.

Newsletter: Lois Sandberg noted the Newsletter is ready for printing and the front page features volunteers.

Volunteers: Volunteers have been organized by their volunteer interests. Staying Put Angels are on a special eblast list and do errands, household tasks, and shopping. Barb Achenbaum noted the Angels are developing strong relationships with their members; she mentioned the friendship between Maureen M. and Ro N. as an example. There are 40 Staying Put Angels at this time. Care Connections is the outgrowth of the original “Phone Buddies” project. Staying Put has 35 volunteers who call and/or visit 45 members who enjoy a bit of socializing but don’t get out very much.