

Minutes of the 9/14/15 Staying Put Board Meeting

4:30-5:35 pm at the Congregational Church, New Canaan.

Present: Barb Achenbaum, Judy Bentley, George Brakeley, Lyn Chivvis, Jim Cole, Lila Coleman, Kathy Collins, Phil Ives, Judy Johnson, Janet Lanaway, Steve Orteig, Joel Pelzner, Lois Sandberg, Sue Scannell, Donna Simone, Cynnie Yates

Minutes: The Minutes of the July meeting were approved. (There was no SP Board meeting in August.)

Operations: August was a quiet month. Barb said this gave the office time to do some planning. Although other requests were lighter in August, ride requests continue to increase. One Friday there were 22 rides. Rides average 377 a month; this is the biggest service Staying Put does and continues to increase (at a rate of 46% over 2014), in spite of the cap on ride request of 3 a week. 40 drivers gave 335 rides to 40 members in August.

Membership: Sue and Dave Scannell are new members!

Community: Staying Put is planning joint activities with local community organizations, including tours of Grace Farms and an event at Halo for “Silver Sneakers.” It is noted that most health insurance will reimburse for this fitness program. Staying Put is co-sponsoring an event with the Alliance of Business Professionals on End-of-Life Issues. Although this is not a popular topic, it is an important one. Rotary has asked SP to help them locate some veterans who might like help in some way – from raking leaves to helping with a move to another home.

Annual Appeal: The Annual Appeal preparations will be at Judy Bentley’s the week of October 12th. The appeal letters will be mailed October 16th.

Board Committees/Reports

Technology: Thanks to Patti Geanakos, the new program, Kindful, will be up and running for this year’s appeal. The volunteer database and donor history database are being updated. George Brakeley and Patti decided to store Staying Put’s Archives in Dropbox. Access to the Archives will be password protected.

Publicity: Lois Sandberg and Nancy Helle Annual Appeal article will be published in the October 15th New Canaan Advertiser.

Events: The Luau at the Inn, presented and performed by “our own” Lila Coleman and Jill Stevens was very popular. The event was complete with hula, songs and ukuleles and attended by 55 delighted Staying Put members. Other recent events included the Annual Woodway Beach Picnic, a lunch and tour of Kris Johnson’s garden, and the Friday lunches at Mead Park. The events Committee met on August 28th to plan events for the fall and winter, including Judy Bentley’s Frog Christmas Tree luncheon, the Mitten Tree program in conjunction with St. Mark’s. On September 24th Staying Put will host a drivers’ event at the New Canaan Historical Society. In addition to our volunteer drivers, Meals on Wheels and Inn drivers will be invited. Roger Silva, a physical therapist, will instruct volunteers on proper ways to help those with physical limitations.

Volunteers: A volunteer coffee was held in the office on August 27th. This event has become a welcome social time for all our volunteers: office, Angels, Care Connections, as well as Drivers. On October 22nd, Barb Achenbaum, will host an evening reception to thank Staying Put volunteers and to recruit volunteers.

The Staying Put Angels program is a huge help to the staff; the Angels run errands and help members with small, home maintenance tasks. The Care Connections program is also a boon to the staff and to the membership. Thirty-nine members are receiving calls and or visits regularly from 31 volunteers.

Survey: A survey of 171 members shows the average member age is 84, and 96% of members are over the age of 80. Staying Put has 50 members who are over 90 years-old. New members tend to be around 80 years-old when they join. In Staying Put's experience, people who Volunteer and or donate eventually join.

Village-to-Village webinar on frail members: Kathy Collins attended a webinar to learn more about boundary issues between the organization and its members. With membership getting older and ever-more frail, it is important to know when a member's needs are too great for our organization. One village no longer takes new members who are determined to be too needy. The question of establishing the "too needy" needs to be discussed. Another village does not give rides to a member's aide because of liability issues. There's also a "No touch policy" in some organizations; where volunteers do not physically assist members. Although the Good Samaritan Law covers a lot, and the members sign a waiver, the following issues continue to grow: liability, professional versus volunteer help, a volunteer verification process, and general boundary issues.