

Minutes of the 2/12/18 Staying Put Board Meeting

4:30 – 5:45 pm meeting of the Board of Staying Put in New Canaan took place on at The Congregational Church of New Canaan.

Present: Barb Achenbaum, Judy Bentley, Carol Blauvelt, Lyn Chivvis, Kelly DeFrancesco, Tom Ferguson, Amy Freyre, Cathy Irwin, Phil Ives, Peggy Jay, Judy Johnson, Steve Orteig, Joel Pelzner, Lois Sandberg, Sue Scannell

Giving Day is March 1st. Land a raffle will be held in the office. A special thanks to Betsy Afragola for providing the lunch.

Events: Staying Put had four events in January attended by 27 members. In addition to the events the Congregational Church Youth Group cooked and delivered meals to 19 very grateful Staying Put members. Two events were cancelled due to weather: the annual birthday party and a lunch at Grace Farms. The birthday party will be held in conjunction with the annual meeting in May. The Annual Fundraiser will be held on June 24th at Joan Dione's.

Advisory Council: The next Advisory Council Meeting will be on April 18 at the New Canaan Historical Society.

Transportation Report: Carol Blauvelt reported on transportation issues for older adults in CT. She and Barb Achenbaum attended SWCAA (Southwestern Connecticut Agency on Aging) third meeting on transportation issues. A survey for towns in Fairfield County is being designed, and will be mailed to residents over 60 years of age. Fairfield County is the only county in the state that is addressing the current and future needs for safe transportation for older adults.

Community Outreach: The Necessary Conversations series held in collaboration with the library was well attended with a total of 155 attendees. The first conversation focused on safe driving, the second focused on being prepared for a medical emergency, and the third was about the pros and cons of having an older parent move closer to an adult child. Staying Put plans to present another series of panel discussions next winter at the library.

Outreach to Adult Children: Cathy Irwin, Kathy Pasternak and Amy Freyre have started a conversation with adult sons and daughters of older parents and have named the group COPE – Caring for Our Parents Everywhere. The group will provide information on topics of interest to adult children of older parents. The group also plans to set up a private Facebook page where members can exchange ideas on topics related to caregiving and concerns about aging parents.

Membership Committee: The membership committee is reaching out to new members to welcome and encourage them to participate in Staying Put events.

Volunteers: Kelly DeFrancesco has offered to chair the volunteer committee. Committee members met to discuss ways to thank current volunteers and recruit new volunteers. Personal thank you Valentine's notes were sent to our most active volunteers. In addition, a volunteer recruitment coffee will be held at Staying Put on March 19th.

Kudos: The board congratulated board member Kelly DeFrancesco on being awarded the 2017 Realtor Citizen of the Year. This award is given to a New Canaan realtor who exemplifies the qualities of professionalism, ethics and willingness to devote time and energy to the New Canaan community.