

## **Minutes of the 1/8/18 Staying Put Board Meeting**

4:30 – 5:35 pm meeting of the Board of Staying Put in New Canaan took place on Monday, January 8th at The Congregational Church of New Canaan.

Present: Barb Achenbaum, Judy Bentley, Carol Blauvelt, Lyn Chivvis, Jim Cole, Kelly Defrancesco, Tom Ferguson, Amy Freyre, Patti Geanakos, Nicola Holzberger, Cathy Irwin, Peggy Jay, Judy Johnson, Janet Lanaway, Steve Orteig, Kathy Pasternack, Joel Pelzner, Sue Scannell, Pris Thomas

**Operations:** New board member, Amy Freyre, was welcomed to the Board.

**Events:** Staying Put had 6 events in December attended by 102 people. Also, the Youth Group at the Congregational Church delivered dinners to 11 Staying Put members. The annual birthday party was cancelled due to extremely cold weather. The board discussed scheduling the annual birthday party later in the year to avoid weather cancellations. Staying Put will celebrate its 10<sup>th</sup> year at the Annual Business meeting scheduled for May 20. Congressman Jim Himes will attend to present a citation to honor Ellie O'Neill as the genesis of Staying Put. The Gridiron will be asked to perform.

**Membership:** Peggy Jay has been contacting new members. 43 volunteers provided 154 rides for members in December.

**Volunteers:** The next newsletter will print the names of all Staying Put volunteers. The names will also be listed in an advertisement in the NC Advertiser. Kelly DeFrancesco was appointed the new chair of the volunteer committee. The board thanked Lyn Chivvis for her years of service as the volunteer committee chair. Twenty-seven volunteers attended the Holiday Thank You Tea for Volunteers at the home of Lyn and Beecher Chivvis and were treated to entertainment by pianist, Jody Davis, and tenor, Tony Abate. The board discussed whether to hold the annual thank you tea at a less hectic time of year. Discussion to be continued.

**Publicity:** New brochures will be distributed in and out of town: to doctors, dentists, physical therapists offices as well as to banks and other places. The online newsletter is sent out on E-blast with photos and links to more events. It is estimated that one-third of Staying Put's members use the internet. The office also mails 150 newsletters via the post office.

**Outreach to Adult Children:** Cathy Irwin held a discussion for adult daughters some of whose parents live out of town. This was a good way to reach beyond the New Canaan constituency, as well as to have a network support group.

Staying Put will be creating a Facebook Group for adult children caring for aging parents living in New Canaan or elsewhere. Members can converse about the issues involved with this journey, sharing their stories and advice. The group will be closed so members can either ask to join or be invited. This would be patterned after the New Canaan Moms website which started with 40 people and now has over 2,000. The page will not give specific legal or medical advice but provide links to other websites where members can gather the information they need and provide monthly posts on specific topics related to caregiving.

**Community Outreach:** Staying Put in partnership with the New Canaan library is presenting a 3 part series entitled: "Necessary Conversations for Adult Children and Aging Parents." The first program on January 10th will provide information on aging and safe driving. The second program on Jan 24<sup>th</sup> will provide information on avoiding a crisis when Mom or Dad visits the ER and the 3<sup>rd</sup> scheduled for February 7<sup>th</sup> is a conversation about the pros and cons of having a parent move closer to family. Staying Put has gotten good publicity in the NC Advertiser on this series.

Judy Bentley and Carol Blauvelt met with Kevin Moynihan to continue a discussion on the growing number of seniors in New Canaan and how to best serve them.

**Fairfield County Giving Day:** Is scheduled for March 1. Staying Put will host a lunch at the office and invite members and donors to stop in for lunch and make a donation of any amount.