

## **Minutes of the 11/14/16 Staying Put Board Meeting**

4:30 - 5:30 pm meeting of the Board of Staying Put in New Canaan took place on Monday November 14, 2016 at The Congregational Church of New Canaan.

**Present:** Barb Achenbaum, Betsy Afragola, Judy Bentley, Carol Blauvelt, George Brakeley, Lyn Chivvis, Jim Cole, Lila Coleman, Kelly DeFrancesco, Tom Ferguson, Chris Hussey, Cathy Irwin, Phil Ives, Peggy Jay, Judy Johnson, Janet Lanaway, Kathy Pasternak, Lois Sandberg, Sue Scannell, Cynn timer Yates. Cathy Fitzpatrick attended by invitation.

The minutes of the October meeting were approved.

**Operations:** Staying Put elected two new Board members: Kelly DeFrancesco and Carol Blauvelt. Kelly has been a Staying Put volunteer for 5 years and is very involved in New Canaan. Carol has lived in New Canaan almost 40 years and has been a volunteer in Town. Recently she has been on the committee on aging and is heading up the TeleHealth program.

Cathy Fitzpatrick reported on her early morning calls (8AM) to volunteer drivers to fill any rides that are still open for that day. Before Cathy began filling rides for Staying Put she did so for the Red Cross for 12 years. Cathy discussed her challenges in filling all the rides. Thursdays and Fridays are the busiest days with 20 – 23 requests for rides, many of which are to the hairdresser. Mondays are the least active in terms of ride requests.

Staying Put provided 361 rides in October. The number of drivers is up from 72 to 96 and yet, Staying Put can always use more drivers. Some drivers pick up 2-3 rides a day. As of 11/14/2016, Staying Put has provided 3,460 rides to members this year.

**Volunteers:** Discussion of how to recruit more volunteer drivers included inviting a potential driver on a ride to make them more comfortable with giving a ride by her/himself. Other possibilities for recruitment include announcements in churches, publicity with Newcomers, and the Town Greeter, and handouts to realtors for their clients. St Aloysius has a volunteer group, as do many other churches, and Staying Put has garnered some new drivers from these resources. The GetAbout is also a good resource for our members. Staying Put requested rides from GetAbout for 54 members this year, but we don't have an accounting of number of the rides members request on their own. Volunteer Coffees will continue as a way to thank our volunteers and encourage new volunteers. The gatherings show drivers that although their volunteer time is done solo, they are part of a group of wonderful people! There is something to be said for creating a group identity.

**Events:** There were six events held in October with 115 attendees. Two upcoming events will honor and thank Volunteers a coffee in the office and the Annual Thank You Tea at Lyn Chivvis' home. Judy Bentley's Frog Tree Christmas lunch for members will be held on December 15. The Annual Birthday Party will be on Jan 8th at St. Mark's from 2-4. Ryan Oakes will provide the entertainment.

**Membership:** Lila Coleman reported the committee is planning to host information events at condo associations in town. The first of these will be held at Jim & Carol Hollyday's in LeeFair. The list of Staying Put vetted service providers and volunteers who do simple things like changing light bulbs will entice people to join.

**Publicity:** Upcoming photo ops include the Volunteer Coffee, and the Mitten Tree. Two of the intern stories from last spring will be in The New Canaanite.

**Community:** Janecke Madsen was awarded the Hands-On Hall of Fame Volunteer Award by New Canaan Community Foundation; she was given a well-deserved standing ovation by the audience in Town Hall. Along with her volunteering for Staying Put, Janecke has volunteered at Waveny Care Center for 35 years.

The high school football team has been a great source of publicity and volunteers. The team has helped move outdoor furniture, flip mattresses and do other heavy lifting for members. Some team players will continue to volunteer throughout the year. Staying Put also has 2 new drivers because of the partnership.

The New Canaan Beautification League donated Amaryllis Plants that were planted and delivered to 15 Staying Put members.

Kent Findlay and Lyn Chivvis are working on a program for young families to adopt a Staying Put member as a grandparent. The idea is to match a youngster with a member who does not have family nearby. Visits might include playing cards, doing puzzles, sharing stories, or just sharing tea and cookies. Kent knows some young families that would love to adopt a grandparent.

Next spring the high school interns will be used to research trends in transportation for elders.