

## Minutes of the 4/10/17 Staying Put Board Meeting

4:30 – 5:33 pm meeting of the Board of Staying Put in New Canaan took place on Monday April 10 at The Congregational Church of New Canaan.

**Present:** Barb Achenbaum, Betsy Afragola, Judy Bentley, Carol Blauvelt, Lyn Chivvis, Jim Cole, Lila Coleman, Kelly Defrancesco, Tom Ferguson, Patti Geanakos, Cathy Irwin, Phil Ives, Peggy Jay, Judy Johnson, Janet Lanaway, Steve Orteig, Kathy Pasternak, Joel Pelzner, Sue Scannell, Priscilla Thomas

**Operations:** It's time to update our strategic plan and work on more strategic partnerships, on having members join before they have a crisis, and on improved transportation options for our seniors. The top priority of the plan is serving the members, the second to accrue and keep more volunteers, third to strategize with the town and GetAbout about transportation for seniors.

A member survey will be prepared and handed out at the Annual Meeting on April 30 at St. Mark's. Two different focus groups will be held; the first one will be for members and will ask what else can SP do for members. The second focus group will be for the "not ready yet's" and will ask what can SP do to make them feel more like joining BEFORE they're in crisis. More articles in the Advertiser will help us reach out to this group. The focus group will help us know what subjects are of interest to these people. It was noted that joining SP is associated with aging and inherently that makes marketing a challenge.

**Publicity:** SP will update the marketing flyers and distribute them to Meals on Wheels, churches, doctor offices and physical therapist offices. SP will also continue to collaborate with other organizations in town. The Art Show at Waveny was on the cover of the Boomers Magazine and the photo was of SP member artist Betty DeArujo and Barbara Jeffries. The next newsletter will be mailed mid-April. Greg Reilly (New Canaan Advertiser, whose mother is a member of SP) and Michael Dinan (of NewCanaanite.com) have been to the SP office. SP is updating its page in the Chamber of Commerce website.

**The Advisory Council:** will meet this week at The Inn. Lee Barnes and Molly DePatie are the new co-chairs, taking over for Jim Hollyday and Barbara Johansen. The agenda for the meeting: assess 2016-2017; who benefits from SP and how can they give back; transportation; and plans to celebrate SP's 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Ideas include a big gala and article a month to honor each founding member. SP had its First Annual Meeting in May of 2008. It was incorporated in March of 2007.

**Membership:** Six new members joined SP in March. Membership has decided to visit all the new members from the past 2 years to be sure they are feeling welcomed and that SP is providing them with the help they expected.

**Events:** In March 142 members attended SP events. The Potluck "Marching into the 90's" supper at the Presbyterian Church was attended by 40 people, 9 of whom were in their 90's. The Fairfield County Giving Day lunch was attended by 36 members. The trip to the NCHS Planetarium was attended by 14 members. The members' art show was attended by 25 members. Other March events included: the St. Patrick's Day Party at The Inn and lunch at Long Ridge Tavern.

The Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday April 30 at 2pm at St. Mark's. The speaker is Donna Valerio who is a dementia coach. George Baker will play the piano.

**Intergenerational Activities:** The Youth Group at the Congregational Church will be volunteering on April 23rd to help with yard clean up.