

## **Minutes of the 11/12/18 Staying Put Board Meeting**

4:30-5:50 pm meeting of the Board of Staying Put in New Canaan took place at The Congregational Church of New Canaan.

Present: Barb Achenbaum, Judy Bentley, Carol Blauvelt, Kelly Defrancesco, Tom Ferguson, Amy Freyre, Patti Geanakos, Chris Hussy, Cathy Irwin, Phil Ives, Peggy Jay, Judy Johnson, Janet Lanaway, Kathy Pasternak, Joel Pelzner, Sue Scannell, and Pris Thomas.

**Advisory Council:** The Fall Advisory Council met on October 24 at the Historical Society and was attended by 18 Advisory Council members and 5 guests. John Engel made a presentation on Senior Housing options, providing a history of condo real estate activity in New Canaan from the 1960s and reviewing several potential options for new independent senior housing in town. It was agreed that a town-wide forum on the issue, including representatives from the Town government, Staying Put, and Waveny, would be a good next step. Waveny will undertake a market study to assess needs and demand.

**Aging-in-Place Coalition in Greenwich:** Nicola and Barb attended the quarterly meeting of the coalition on October 31. Nicola presented her report on the Village Conference which fostered a lively discussion about how to address the issues “mature” villages like Staying Put are facing.

**Events:** There were seven member events in October with a total of 172 attendees, including 44 non-members.

Staying Put co-sponsored events at Lapham, the New Canaan Library and the Congregational Church. Since January Staying Put has co-sponsored 20 events with Lapham that drew 191 attendees, and 122 (64%) were non-members. Of the non-members, 25% are donors and 34% of non-members attended 2 or more events. Since January, the Necessary Conversations panel discussions at the Library drew 175 participants, only 18 of whom (10%) were members and 15% of non-members attended more than 2 Library programs. The program on end-of-life planning at the Congregational Church drew 55 attendees, 5 were members and 13 were donors.

**Membership:** The committee will make a “pitch” at Lapham events, sharing the virtues and benefits of membership and do a promo at the next Board of Realtors meeting, as well as at a future Advertiser Coffee.

**Communications:** The Advertiser ran a photo and story about the Dede Bartlett event on November 8. Chris reported that Greg Reilly is retiring from the Advertiser.

**Technology:** Giving Day is scheduled for Thursday, Feb. 28 and that the committee will be meeting in early December. The event will feature a Luncheon and raffle again this year.

**Volunteers:** Lyn and Beecher Chivvis will host a Holiday Reception honoring Staying Put Volunteers on Thursday, November 29 at 4 pm.

**COPE (Caring for Our Parents Everywhere):** The focus of the COPE project continues to evolve. The group will continue to update the private Facebook page, with an emphasis on sharing good resources and existing websites for adult children, especially those who are new “caregivers.” They will also encourage adult children to share positive interactions and experiences with their parents. COPE’s efforts will be expanded to include more general outreach, including a quarterly online eblast newsletter sent to adult children (which gives the flipside of info being shared with their parents in Staying Put communications) and direct collaboration on programs with New Canaan CARES. The staff has also added many additional resources for family caregivers to the website. There was a discussion of working with our graphic designer to explore a new name which would reflect the new pro-active spin.