

Minutes of the 4/9/18 Staying Put Board Meeting

4:30 – 5:35 pm meeting of the Board of Staying Put in New Canaan took place at The Congregational Church of New Canaan.

Present: Barb Achenbaum, Betsy Afragola, Judy Bentley, Lyn Chivvis, Kelly DeFrancesco, Tom Ferguson, Amy Freyre, Chris Hussey, Phil Ives, Peggy Jay, Judy Johnson, Janet Lanaway, Steve Orteig, Joel Pelzner, Sue Scannell.

Advisory Council: Will meet April 18 at the Historical Society at 3:30 pm. Co-chairs Lee Barnes and Molly DePatie have sent the agenda to the Council members. The meeting will cover three topics. Transportation will be the lead topic and Carol Blauvelt will give her presentation on demographics and needs locally and statewide. Barbara Johansen will give an update on senior housing in town, and Jim Lisher will update the Council on senior health issues in town.

Tenth Anniversary Planning: Pat Stoddard, Ellie O’Neill, and Barbara Johansen have started planning the program for May 20th. A list of The Originals – who founded SP – will be published in the program. Jim Hines will be the primary guest speaker. Pat Langenus will be his back-up in case of emergency. SP has a tenth anniversary logo to be used on all publications this year.

June Fundraiser: This year’s fundraiser, Jazz at Joan’s will be held June 24th at the home of Joan Dionne. Barbara Johansen’s daughter and son-in-law will provide music.

Membership: Each month the Membership Committee calls members to encourage them to come to events.

Events: 44 attendees came to events in March including: the lunch on Giving Day, monthly men’s coffee and a trip to Grace Farms. The Planetarium show at the NC High School was also well attended, and attendees asked to have another one in the fall.

Upcoming events include lunch at Lapham on April 11 with Pat Stoddard presenting “Write your own Obituary.” The Spring Potluck Dinner on April 11 at the Presbyterian Church and a dinner at a Hibachi Restaurant in Darien.

Volunteers: Kelly DeFrancesco reported the March volunteer recruitment coffee resulted in nine new volunteers.

Outreach to Adult Children: Cathy Irwin reported the "COPE" private Facebook page was launched with Board members, SP employees and friends invited to join. Nicola Holzberger posted an excellent article about safety in the home, and Patti Geanakos shared a post about changes in Social Security cards. Barb is sending out an "invitation to join" to the adult children of current Staying Put members. Stay tuned--we expect this resource to grow slowly at first, but eventually serve as a valuable resource for individuals navigating this sometimes bewildering journey.

Discussion Topics

Importance of having a Health Care Advocate: It is important for every patient – especially elders – to have a health care advocate. The right care after surgery and discharge from the surgical center or hospital is a critical part of recovery. There are many times when a patient needs to have someone help

them receive appropriate discharge plans. Adult children of elders will benefit from the COPE Facebook suggestions on how to advocate and care for one's parent in these types of situations.

Combating loneliness and isolation: The board suggested providing extra dollars for more events to get SP members out of their homes or buying movie tickets for members.