

## Minutes of the January 13, 2014 Staying Put Board Meeting

A meeting of the Board of Staying Put in New Canaan took place on Monday, Jan. 13 at 4:30 PM in the Parlor at the Congregational Church of New Canaan.

President Tom Ferguson opened the meeting with a Happy New Year to all. Priscilla Thomas let the Board know that Gloria Major-Brown has a broken patella and will be staying at her daughter's in CA for several weeks. Another announcement was that Jane Sweet died in early January; in 2007 she and Ken Jayne started a list of potential volunteers Staying Put.

Executive Director Jane Nyce reported that December was a "humming" month with a good number of requests (251), of which 167 were for rides. There were also more home visits than usual, and the home health visits were time consuming. Jane asked the Board to please keep her updated on anyone who is in Waveny Care Center, as well as any changes at a member's home that may impact the member's well being.

Although Sally Campbell has gone off the Board, she continues to host wonderful lunches and dinners for the membership; please thank Sally for her continued hospitality at every chance!

Upcoming events:

- The dinner at South End Restaurant is full; perhaps STAYING PUT can take over another table in the main restaurant or the bar.
- Jane Nyce encouraged the Board to attend the professional theater program at the New Canaan Inn on 1/23; it's about cognitive decline and aging and the participants are themselves aging.
- The 1/29 program on Russia will include Russian Beef Stroganoff, and the lunch at Woodway (members come as guests) still has room for more.

Board members' attendance is really appreciated by the members, so please make an effort to attend any events.

Jane thanked Lois Sandberg for her excellent work on the Newsletter, and she also thanked Patti Geanakos for adding STAYING PUT to a 24 hour fundraiser on Fairfield County Giving Day – March 7<sup>th</sup>. This fundraiser will be broadcast to corporations and people of all ages, and hopefully will help to increase the number of people in STAYING PUT's data base. The Giving Day has fun competitions, e.g., first donation in, most donations by 10 AM and other fun ideas. STAYING PUT will have a coffee at the office to help some members donate online.

Thanks to Patti Geanakos for setting up Constant Contact for STAYING PUT. Constant Contact is an internet marketing tool with a built-in distribution list; so the Newsletter, Jane's letters, as well as the list of Events can all be put into this format and emailed directly from Constant Contact.

Since the Annual Appeal letter was sent out in early November STAYING PUT has received \$143,968 from 310 donors. (NB: the amount of money raised in STAYING PUT's fiscal year is different because the fiscal year starts in July.) As of Jan 13, STAYING PUT has enough money to cover operating costs for 2014.

Jane has emailed the list of donors to each Board member so that we can each write a personal thank you to "our" donors. The STAYING PUT stationery is in the office for Board members to pick up if they prefer to use the official stationery.

The membership invoices will be sent out at the end of this week.

Finance Committee announced that STAYING PUT has made an agreement with NCCF to open a STAYING PUT Agency Fund; 60% of the monies will be invested in Vanguard and 40% in TIFF, which has a much broader group of investments than Vanguard. The money that is still in Fidelity will be put into an account that earns more than .01% (!), but which still has the liquidity STAYING PUT requires. NCCF is very pleased to have the STAYING PUT account because STAYING PUT's good name (for having done a thorough due diligence) will bring more accounts to NCCF.

The Board thanks Tom Ferguson, Tom Gnuse, Tom Turrentine and Bill Sessions for their outstanding work.

Tom Ferguson asked the Board for impressions of the Jan. 12 7th STAYING PUT Birthday Party, and all agreed that it was a success socially, and that having the "soup shots" from Fresh Direct was a welcome innovation. All agreed that Tom's decision to hold off on starting the program was a good one since everyone was having such a good time. Next year a full hour will be allotted for the social time. The entertainment was a huge success; people smiled, tapped their toes, tapped their fingers, laughed, and loved all the songs – especially the patriotic one. The party ended on a "high note" with Jody Davis entertaining the group.

Steve Orteig had an emergency but still managed to get the balloons up and floating in time, and his never-give-up attitude was documented by the NBC photographers.

NBC News Anchor Brian Williams asked NBC to come and take some shots of STAYING PUT celebrating! The short piece is Brian's own addition to the "Making a Difference" segment on NBC Nightly News; apparently this will be a segment about newsmen making a difference in their hometowns and will be shown sometime after the Olympics are done.

George Brakley's presentation of Ed Weed, the person who has lived in New Canaan the longest, was well received. Ed was born in New Canaan 96 years ago and has never left. He's the epitome of Staying Put in New Canaan.

It was decided that next year the post card invitations to the Birthday Party will be sent out.

Tom Ferguson reported that the Committee Chairs and members have been set up, and that only the Audit Committee needs another Board member. Board members are encouraged to join any Committee! All Board members are automatically on the Volunteer and the Membership Committees.

Nancy Helle will send a release to the NC Advertiser about the party. STAYING PUT needs a designated photographer for these events.

Events Committee encouraged the Board to come to as many events as possible, and to send any event ideas (e.g., speakers, topics, museums, tours, etc.) to Steve Orteig or to Lyn Chivvis. The Committee will tap into Joel Pelzner's knowledge of good speakers from his days as leader of Senior Men's club. Another source for medical speakers is Kate Zadek. It is noted that Donna Simone is really the backbone of the Events Committee.

Membership Committee met just prior to the Board meeting, and Peggy Jay said they'd be back at the Food Emporium as soon as the weather improves. Stay tuned for more next month.

Lyn Chivvis passed around the fliers from two years ago asking for Volunteers, especially for drivers. STAYING PUT needs a newer photo to send to Arthur Congdon who has graciously offered to make up a new flier template. These fliers were put into the grocery bags at Stewart's Market two years ago, and produced nary a single Volunteer. The next set of fliers should be put out in the various exercise shops around town. Perhaps Judy Bentley will ask the bank to mass produce them as was done the last time. Mitzie Transue reported that Office Volunteers are going well, and that two new ones have started this month: June DeMichele and Judy Johnson. Mitzie manages to get three Volunteers for each day; each Office Volunteer takes a two hour shift. Some Office Volunteer

take great pride and ownership of their spot; and they will also fill in whenever else they may be needed.

STAYING PUT is always in need of more drivers; as mentioned before, one good way to enlist a Volunteer is to ask that person to join us when we're giving a ride so the potential Volunteer realizes what a good trip it is. STAYING PUT also needs more home visitors and more phone buddies. Please send any potential Volunteer names to Lyn Chivvis or to Joel Pelzner.

The meeting closed at 5:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lyn Chivvis, Secretary to the Board

1/15/14