

## Minutes of the April 14, 2013 Staying Put Board Meeting

A meeting of the Board of Staying Put took place on Monday, April 14 at 4:30 P.M. in the parlor at the Congregational Church of New Canaan.

President Tom Ferguson opened the meeting and welcomed Jim Cole, who was elected unanimously at the previous Board meeting. Tom welcomed Dave Bentley to give the Board an update on the search for STAYING PUT's new Executive Director.

Executive Director Jane Nyce reported that March was the highest number of requests (301), with rides topping out at 208! Please note that STAYING PUT had 41 Volunteers give the rides to 46 STAYING PUT members; this adds up to 121 donated hours for rides alone.

Of the six events in March, the Russian curator was the "best ever." We expect the two new monthly events – "Kitchen Bridge" and "Coffee in the Kitchen" to gain momentum just as the Men's Coffee has done. Thanks to those who joined in these new events; please bring a friend or a member who needs a ride, or a potential member or Volunteer to these new events.

Two people joined STAYING PUT in March: Lyn Naperstak and Ginger Pagnani.

The Staying Put Newsletter will go out next week, thanks to Lois Sandberg. Patti Geanakos has increased STAYING PUT exposure in social media; please be sure to "like" STAYING PUT if you're a Facebook member.

Treasurer Tom Turrentine reported that March was a good month for collecting membership dues; however the fundraising numbers did not increase significantly, largely because this is not a busy time in the annual appeal cycle.

Dave Bentley, who has decades of experience in the search business, specifically for non-profits, is doing the Executive Director search for Staying Put pro bono.

Dave explained the process: applications are read by Dave and his partner, Frank Farrell. Next Dave and Frank meet with the top candidates, and then Jane Nyce, Judy Bentley and Tom Ferguson meet with the strongest of the candidates. When a candidate gets further along, the Exec Committee will meet with him/her also. STAYING PUT is looking for someone who has a passion about seniors and senior fellowship.

As of Friday STAYING PUT had 20 applicants, and by Monday the number was up to 40. As Dave said, "Jane Nyce is iconic," and she is known nationally for her work at STAYING PUT. STAYING PUT is the model across the nation, which makes this a desirable job. Dave mentioned that 40 is a big number of applicants. The job description is posted on idealist.com, Fairfieldcountyjobs.com, and on the New Canaan Chamber of Commerce website. No names are mentioned. The Board is encouraged to ask anyone qualified to apply for the position.

There are 2-3 promising candidates and Tom expects/hopes to announce the new Executive Director at the May 12 Board Meeting.

The Annual Meeting will be at St. Mark's on May 18 from 2-4 p.m. In previous Annual Meetings STAYING PUT has had a guest speaker, most recently, Bill Piper from Waveny Care Center. This year the meeting will focus on Emergency Preparedness and personal planning; tables will be set up to show attendees what documents should be available in case of emergency, and how to store this information. Another table will have forms for healthcare advocates; every person over the age of 18 should have a healthcare advocate.

Jim Cole will explain how 911 helps, and what information these emergency caregivers would like to know from us; e.g., whom to call in an emergency. These important details (and many others, like mortgages, bank accounts, insurance information) should be put into a plastic baggie and put into what Jim calls "a Go Box." It's low-tech, and really helpful.

The different presentation tables will be staffed by EMT experts.

Although the annual meeting is not public, Board members are encouraged to bring friends along so they can get a good sense of how helpful SP is.

Dues will be raised July 1, 2014 from \$375 to \$400 for individual membership, and from \$500 to \$525 for household membership. Seventy-five to eighty percent of the dues have been paid; outstanding bills frequently belong to members who are away all winter. Bills will be sent again, and if necessary, delinquent members will be called by Tom Ferguson.

The goal for STAYING PUT membership is 330-350 members. With two and a half in staff and 330 members, we are close to capacity, and requests are still rising. To sustain the number of members, STAYING PUT needs to gain 2-3 new members a month due to attrition.

About 12% of the memberships are special memberships. STAYING PUT is given some grants especially to fund these memberships, and no one who needs STAYING PUT services has ever been turned away.

When the new Executive Director has been with STAYING PUT for a while, the Board will consider having another retreat to discuss membership as well as other important topics.

Membership Committee met with Jane Nyce to get her perspective on where to focus its talents and energies to recruit new members. Three weeks ago Joel Pelzner and George Brakeley gave a presentation at Senior Men's Club and they signed up three more Volunteers. Jane's point is, "Volunteering is the Path to Membership."

Events committee reminded the Board that STAYING PUT will be marching in the Town Memorial Day Parade on May 26. In the past there have been 25-30 marchers, who had fun carrying the STAYING PUT banner with great flair. Uniforms include comfortable walking shoes and sunscreen, since Tom Ferguson has guaranteed that we'll have good weather.

The June fundraiser will be at Lila Coleman's home on June 22, and Judy Bentley has already lined up the tent, tables and chairs as well as the caterer and the background musician. The caterer is Super Duper Weenie, and Patti Price Harris will play her keyboard. Getabout will ferry guests from the parking lot at St. Mark's to Lila's on Oenoke Lane.

Other events include the two new monthly programs: Kitchen Bridge, and Coffee in the Kitchen. These are social and very informal, and it is hoped that they will grow in popularity. Many thanks to those of you who have already attended these. Please bring a friend!

Assistant Director Donna Simone requests the Board to please RSVP to the dinner at Gates and to the Easter luncheon at Sally Campbell's. Donna's monthly reminder email about upcoming Events is very helpful.

The Publicity Committee will have the STAYING PUT newsletter ready to go next week, and Nancy Helle is working on two articles about STAYING PUT volunteers for the local papers.

Joel Pelzner and George Brakeley have done a terrific job of recruiting Volunteer's from Senior Men's Club. The Board is encouraged to keep a few of the Volunteer fliers handy and to give them out at any appropriate time. The fliers

are only a back up; the procedure that works is to look that potential Volunteer in the eye and tell them what they're missing! And then give them the flier...

Volunteer Committee has always tried to have Volunteers who would be available to drive on a set morning or day of the week. Thus far only two Volunteers have been willing to do so, and they've both had life changes and are no longer available. But the need still exists for some Volunteers who will be available for "last minute" rides. Lyn Chivvis and Mitzie Trasue will pursue another avenue to accomplish this goal.

In past years STAYING PUT has nominated people to be recognized by the Volunteer Center, and 3 Board members have received awards in the recent past for their efforts on behalf of STAYING PUT.

The Advisory Council met the day after this Board Meeting, and there were 22 members in attendance. Seventeen of these are former STAYING PUT Board members. A discussion on recruiting more Volunteers was productive.

The final business of the meeting was Tom's announcement that Gloria Major-Brown had passed a major milestone: she is no longer an octogenarian! Gloria is an inspiration to all who are lucky enough to know her and to work with her, AND, Tom said she is his idol.

The meeting closed at 5:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lyn Chivvis, Secretary to the Board