

Minutes of the May 12, 2014 Staying Put Board Meeting

A meeting of the Board of Staying Put took place on Monday, May 12 at 4:30 P.M. in the Parlor at the Congregational Church of New Canaan.

President Tom Ferguson opened the meeting and welcomed new Executive Director Barb Achenbaum by saying that two months ago when STAYING PUT and Dave Bentley started the search for a new Executive Director, STAYING PUT did not know how fortunate we would be to have Barb on the horizon. Retiring Executive Director Jane Nyce said she is so excited

There were 287 requests for services in April, of which 200 were rides.

Events in April were "ambitious;" the pot luck supper at the Presbyterian Church was attended by at least 30. The new monthly events, Kitchen Bridge, and Coffee in the Kitchen, have been well attended and many thanks go to the Board members who have been so supportive of these new events. Please come to the Paul Bogaev concert at Waveny on Friday if you can. Thanks to Lila Coleman for her enthusiasm about this talented musician.

Get your questions ready for the May 20 "Tech Time" at the New Canaan Inn, when Sue Scannell will be on hand to help with i-pads.

Jane Nyce reported that Patti Geanakos has STAYING PUT up and running with Constant Contact, which has made the group emails much easier to send and to read.

The Spring newsletter went out last week. Please let Jane know if you didn't get one.

Nancy Helle has been working on many different articles: STAYING PUT Volunteer drivers, Jim Cole's upcoming presentation for the Annual Meeting, and of course, our new Executive Director, Barb Achenbaum!

STAYING PUT is at 65% of its fundraising goal, and this number does not include the proceeds from the Concert. STAYING PUT expects to receive grants from Rotary and from New Canaan Community Foundation in support of special memberships. Since these grants have not yet been received, they are not included in the numbers for April. Jane handed out a list of new donors; please write a thank you note to any of these people whom you know or to whom you wrote a solicitation letter.

The IRS requires conflict of Interest Statement forms to be filled out and signed by all Board members. This is because any Board members who are in business, might be recommended by STAYING PUT.

The United Way Center for Volunteers awarded Mike Rodell an award for his volunteer driving for STAYING PUT and Steve Orteig was awarded the Volunteer of the Year Award for all his volunteering in New Canaan.

Treasurer Tom Turrentine said the STAYING PUT finances are fine. Dues are collected in Jan. and July, with phone calls made in March to those who have not paid the Jan. invoices. The rate of renewal for January has been lower than expected because many members have either hired permanent full time staff or moved to assisted living. Naturally there are some who have passed away

The Transition Plan is for Barb to start officially on May 19. Jane will show Barb all the ropes and introduce her to all the townspeople who are involved with our seniors. Barb will also have many chances to meet the STAYING PUT members.

The Annual Meeting will be on May 18 at St. Mark's from 2 – 4 p.m.. Jim Cole will be presenting a program on General Preparedness, and will be assisted by Stacey Haffen who is the American Red Cross Director of Community Preparedness for CT and RI. The program will inform attendees about living wills, Power of Attorney, Conservators, and other information (e.g., phone numbers of relatives) that is important and useful to have stored in an i-phone or some other portable device. Jim will also have forms for the Emergency Outcall system, and for the EMT and Town. Sue Scannell and Steve Orteig, who is chief of operations, will be on hand to help answer questions.

Nancy Helle has this Annual Meeting publicized in the local papers. It is open to the public because of the importance of the subject. Please be sure to bring your friends as guests!

Morrill Hall will be available to STAYING PUT after one o'clock, and people usually arrive around 1:45 to have time to socialize. Since only a few balloons will be used for the food tables (and since helium is scarce), STAYING PUT will not get a helium tank. Judy handed each Board member a note reminding us what we are bringing and what our responsibilities are before, during and after the meeting.

The Memorial Day Parade will be on Monday May 26th. Please come and march with STAYING PUT if you're up to it! It is a one mile, downhill walk from St. Mark's to the Masonic hall; anyone who would like to do a half mile is recommended to join STAYING PUT from the firehouse. Remember water and

good walking shoes and sunscreen. Gather at St. Mark's at 9:15 – look for the end of the parade line-up, just behind all the Indian Guides and Indian Princesses and right in front of the Getabout. Marching is just as much fun as watching because one gets to see all the watchers.

The June Fundraiser, thanks to Lila Coleman, will be held at her house on June 22 from 5 to 8 p.m. STAYING PUT will be celebrating seven years of Jane Nyce at the helm. Judy Bentley has lined up the tent, tables & chairs, jazz musician, and Super Duper Weenie. Getabout will provide rides from parking at St. Mark's to Lila's; a committee will meet and greet those who need assistance.

Peggy Jay reported that the Membership Committee plans to set up STAYING PUT information tables at four stores in town: Stewarts, Food Emporium, Walgreens, and Mrs. Greens. The Committee is open to any suggestions on what the banners should say, e.g., "Ask me about Staying Put in New Canaan," or, "What, Me Worry?" to lure people into conversation. The Committee will hand out brochures at every possible opportunity, and did so at the Volunteer Recognition Ceremony last week at the library. Lyn Chivvis will give some of the Volunteer Driver fliers to hand out also.

STAYING PUT is getting lots of publicity thanks to Gloria Major-Brown, Nancy Helle and Patti Geanakos. Channel 79 will record the parade crowd, so be sure to cheer for the STAYING PUT Marchers. Patti has gotten STAYING PUT in the online news channels.

Volunteers are always welcome! STAYING PUT hopes to have some Volunteer Drivers become active more than just a few times a year. STAYING PUT has 42 **active** drivers, and 85 drivers on paper. Some drivers will only drive in town. Members are limited to three rides a week, and are required to give at least 24 hours notice. There are days when STAYING PUT has 15 rides to provide! Donna Simone is very creative when it comes to suggesting Getabout or doubling up on a ride, or delaying a ride to another day. So far, STAYING PUT has never had to refuse a legitimate ride request, and has never had to deny a real need for a ride.

Volunteers are invited to all STAYING PUT events where there is no limit to the numbers; e.g., Sally Campbell's luncheons are limited and so are tickets to the opera. Non-resident Volunteers are welcome, and there are some Villages that have "social" memberships. STAYING PUT will revisit this category of membership at a later date. About half of STAYING PUT volunteers are also STAYING PUT members.

Mitzie Transue continues to do a stellar job of keeping the Office staffed with Volunteers because everyone loves working in the office.

The meeting closed at 5:40pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lyn Chivvis, Secretary to the Board