

## Minutes of the March 10, 2014 meeting of Staying Put Board Meeting

A meeting of the Board of Staying Put took place on Monday, March 10 at 4:30 PM in the Parlor at the Congregational Church of New Canaan.

President Tom Ferguson opened the meeting. He thanked Patti Geanako and Board members who participated and donated on Giving Day — a “give where you live” fundraiser that requires very little of non-profit organizations and helps find new donors and promotes philanthropy. It was a long, fun and entertaining day at the office, and well-timed: six months after the first Annual Appeal letters were mailed.

Jane Nyce contributed the \$500 she won from the raffle on Giving Day to STAYING PUT. There were 273 non-profits participating in the “Giving Day” event. Nine were from New Canaan and three of them were on the “leaderboard” for donations at one point during the day. The first 55 organizations to get to \$1K in donations received a matching gift of \$1K. Curtain Call received \$25,000 for receiving the most money. Patti recommended next year that STAYING PUT send out postcards as well as the Constant Contact messages to our supporters.

STAYING PUT had three new members join in February: Eleanor Larsen, Jim Cole, and George and Mary Valchar. Please be sure to encourage these new members to come to the events and make good use of STAYING PUT’s services when needed.

Requests were down slightly, but February is a short month, and we did have some snow days. Indeed, of the seven planned events, one was canceled because of the weather and another was canceled for lack of interest.

The Annual Appeal is at 60% of goal, not including the donations made on March Giving Day. Some grants have come in, specifically \$750 from Newcomers for special memberships.

The second letter for the Annual Appeal will be sent to prospects along with the newsletter next month. Some big donors give in the spring. Some grant requests go out this week. An appeal to NCCF will be made because the grant is separate from the NCCF Agency Fund that STAYING PUT has established with NCCF. Jane will investigate a grant possibility from St. Mark’s.

Sunday, May 18 will be STAYING PUT’s Annual Meeting from 2 – 4 pm. At previous Annual Meetings STAYING PUT has had a Guest Speaker, most recently, Bill Piper from WCC. This year Jane proposed having an Expo on

Emergency Preparedness, which would include a table of “at home” files that each person should have in case of an emergency. These include such documents as a “File for Life” including a person’s Healthcare Proxy. The Town’s response to a 911 call and the NCVAC procedure would also be part of the expo.

The Meeting will not be open to the public but members are encouraged to bring guests.

The June Fundraiser will be held at Lila Coleman’s home on Oenoke Lane on Sunda, June 22 at 5 pm. Tom Ferguson gave the group a rundown of the June Fundraisers to date: the 1<sup>st</sup> was at the Erdman’s; the next two were at the Engel’s; last year we had BBQ’s at individual Board member’s homes. In the past Judy Bentley has done the renting of the tent, chairs, tables and getting a caterer. The work this year must be shared by all, including the Events Committee. A big call will be sent out for clean up after the party. STAYING PUT will ask the Getabout to run a jitney service between parking at St. Mark’s and Lila’s home.

Mitzie Transue reported on volunteers. She has done a great job of keeping the office staffed, and the Volunteers who drive are to be thanked as often as possible. The monthly Volunteer Driver’s Coffee continues to be a fun time for drivers to get together for a few minutes and exchange ideas and fun stories. Nancy Helle is working on an article on STAYING PUT Vol’s for the local papers. Fliers asking people to “be a good neighbor” and volunteer to drive are available for use whenever a Board member finds a prospective Vol.

Peggy Jay is proud of the Membership Committee for meeting whenever and wherever possible, including when the Chair was out of town! These dedicated Board members are ready for action. Someone on the committee will attend “Coffee and Carburetors” at Zumbach’s in order to have a chance to talk about STAYING PUT as well as cars. Joel Pelzner will make a presentation to the Senior Men’s Club in March; he’ll show the STAYING PUT video and then ask them to join or volunteer. The Committee has also assigned committee members to visit a minister from each church in town to discuss STAYING PUT services and to learn about church members who might benefit from joining STAYING PUT.

The number of STAYING PUT members is forecast in the business plan; at present the number is “flat” because we are gaining and losing members at the same rate of about 30 a year. Recently the new members are more and more needy than new members were 6 or 7 years ago. With Jane and Assistant Director Donna Simone working at full throttle, a big increase in membership

would require more staff. All members of the Board are encouraged to stress to potential new members the fun events, the discounts from local suppliers (which, in some cases, can actually cover the cost of the dues!), as well as computer help from our computer gurus Sue Scannell and Patti Geanakos. At present, the STAYING PUT membership represents 12% of those in town who are over 65 years of age.

Publicity this month was good thanks to Patti's getting STAYING PUT on the Giving Day program. STAYING PUT was mentioned in the Senior "Go To Guide" but the article only mentioned that STAYING PUT parties well! And gave all the driving credit to Getabout – which does give many STAYING PUT members rides – but so do our Volunteer drivers!

Events Committee reported that STAYING PUT has three coffees this week: Tuesday is "Kitchen Bridge," Wednesday is "Coffee in the Kitchen," and Thursday is the Drivers' Coffee.

The Comedian/historian event at the Lapham Center was a huge success; please visit the STAYING PUT website for upcoming events.

Jim Cole was elected to the Board. He has been instrumental in the set up of CERT in town, and he's been the Town Fire Commissioner, Town Police Commissioner, and continues to be a Stephen Minister & Leader. He has been voted "Most Valuable Citizen," so it comes as no surprise that he was unanimously elected to join the Board.

The meeting closed at 5:29 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lyn Chivvis, Secretary to the Board

3/12/14