

Minutes of the June 9, 2014 Staying Put Board Meeting

A meeting of the Board of Staying Put in New Canaan took place on Monday, June 9 at 4:30 p.m. in the Parlor at the Congregational Church of New Canaan.

President Tom Ferguson opened the meeting and reminded the Board that this was retiring Executive Director Jane Nyce's final Board meeting.

The Minutes for the May STAYING PUT Board meeting were approved.

STAYING PUT had three new members join in May. The requests reached another high at 299. The number of rides was also another record high at 218. The number of members requesting rides also reached a new high of 54 members. May was filled with Events – 13 in all, thanks to Gloria Major-Brown and Lila Coleman and their event planners. Tom Ferguson commended Jane Nyce for retiring when all the numbers are at record highs! The Mead Park Friday lunches have begun and the first one was well attended.

STAYING PUT has gotten good publicity, especially with the presentation that Jim Cole and Stacey Hafen gave at the Annual Meeting. The New Canaan Advertiser also ran an article announcing the new Executive Director, Barb Achenbaun.

The newsletter and the new brochure are in the works. The Board is asked to help double check the brochure for spelling. Lois Sandberg will ask Arthur Congdon if he's still willing to help with the brochure, in spite of the fact that St. Louis is his home now.

Fundraising is at 71% of the goal. The meeting with Fairfield County Community Foundation will be rescheduled.

Treasurer Tom Turrentine reported that, although May was slow financially, June will be better. The resolution authorizing Tom Ferguson, President of Staying Put in New Canaan, to act on behalf of the entity in all aspects of its relationship with Fidelity Brokerage Services was passed by the Board unanimously. A copy of the full resolution will be sent as an addendum. This resolution must be updated annually. The Board thanked Tom Turrentine.

The transition from Jane Nyce's term as Executive Director to Barb Achenbaum has been going well. Jane has introduced Barb to many people at the New Canaan Inn, Town Hall, Rotary Club, Lapham Community Center and many other executive directors (thanks to Cynthia Gores). They will visit the YMCA,

and Waveny Care Center and also try to meet with the various pastoral care ministers and outreach people in town. Barb has also been going on rides with Assistant Director Donna Simone to meet members, and has met members in their homes and at the various events in May. She will also be at the Drivers' Thank you Coffee on Thursday morning. She will start officially as Executive Director on Monday, June 23.

This year's Annual Meeting had a record turnout probably for two reasons: Jane Nyce's imminent departure, and Jim Cole's great presentation on Emergency Preparedness. The presentation helped to connect people to the Town's emergency files, as well as teach people what information is helpful to have handy in the event of a sudden departure (evacuation or an emergency trip to the hospital) from the home. There was a lot of information presented in just 30 minutes.

Other observations about the Meeting: the trifold display, although very informative, was too inaccessible for most of the guests; the cards that were passed around during the presentation will be put on the tables before the meeting starts next time. Although the trifolds are large, they could be set up during the Men's coffee at the Inn and also in the office during the Drivers' coffee for people to read.

Follow-up on the presentation will be made in the newsletter and in seminars. Jim needs to know what questions were asked in order to address them in the newsletter. At least 150 yellow information cards were filled out at the Meeting;

The Go-Bag is another one of the examples that Jim presented; there are several left at the office for members to pick up and fill with the pertinent information and articles. Thanks to Jim and to Stacey Hafen who is the Red Cross Director of Community Preparedness for Connecticut and Rhode Island for their informative presentation.

The June 22 Fundraiser Party at Lila Coleman's already has 90 people signed up. The Getabout shuttle from St. Mark's parking lot to Lila's (at 99 Oenoke Lane) will start at 4:45. There will be 3 handicap spaces in Lila's driveway. Greeters will help those who have mobility issues; there will be a table for sign in and nametags; nametags will be made ahead of time. Lila will have the lawn mowed on Wednesday because the tent will be put up on Thursday. Lila will also have the lawn sprayed for bugs.

Phil Ives offered to have Getabout pick up 2 – 4 members who need rides directly from their homes. The bar set up will include soft drinks, beer and wine. Dress is casual.

Judy Bentley passed around a sign up sheet to see how many from the Board are coming and also who is available for set up and for clean up. The Board is indebted to Lila for offering her property for this Fund/Friend raiser/Farewell party.

The Membership Committee has organized to meet outside the local markets and Walgreens to pass out brochures and educate people about STAYING PUT. The committee will also introduce Barb Achenbaum to the Board of Realtors. The suggestion to hand out brochures at the pop up parks in town was well received

The Publicity Committee has been busy; thanks to Nancy Helle for getting STAYING PUT in the local papers "early and often." Please send any photos to Patti Geanakos who will put them on the website. Send them also to Lois Sandberg and Nancy Helle for the brochure and the news.

Events reported that the Board is welcome to join in the Kitchen Bridge and also the Coffee in the Kitchen – the two new events.

The tour of the New Canaan Ambulance Corps is Thursday, June 12. Please meet at the STAYING PUT office to carpool there since parking at the NCVAC is scarce.

Please check the STAYING PUT website for all the Events.

As we all know, STAYING PUT couldn't operate without the wonderful Volunteers. The Thank you coffee for the Volunteer Drivers is scheduled for Thurs., June 12 from 9 – 10 a.m. The Board is encouraged to drop in and thank those drivers who do come.

The Office Volunteers have been a constant help. Mitzie Transue and her husband are moving out of the area. Molly DePatie has offered to help Mitzie with the Office Volunteers position while Mitzie packs up. And Cynn timer Yates has offered to take on this position.

The meeting closed at 5:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lyn Chivvis, Secretary to the Board

6/10/14