

Minutes of the August 14, 2014 Staying Put Board Meeting

A meeting of the Board of Staying Put took place on Monday, August 14 at 4:30 PM in the Parlor at the Congregational Church of New Canaan.

President Tom Ferguson announced that Mitzie Transu has officially resigned from the Board; it is hoped that she will come to the Woodway picnic so she can be properly thanked and toasted. The July minutes were approved. Tom thanked Executive Director Barb Achenbaum for getting the Operations report out to the Board in such a timely manner.

Barb passed around a sign up for those Board members who want to buy Lobsterfest tickets. The tickets are \$35 each, and for every ticket that STAYING PUT sells, STAYING PUT gets \$20 back as a donation from Rotary. The Rotary Lobsterfest is Friday Sept. 26 and Sat the 27th. Barb also passed around an updated weekend phone duty list.

Barb emailed the Ops report to the Board; highlights include the number of requests, which were up to 320 in July. Of these, 212 were for rides, which were given by 42 Volunteers as well as Barb and Donna Simone. Of the 49 members who requested rides, 17 were from The Inn. The Inn is full and many of the Inn residents do not drive. There were 108 requests for health related services and consultations, errands, technological help and other requests. NB: some members are good candidates for concierge doctors while others do not need such expensive services as of yet.

Membership renewals were sent to "summer" members and 36 renewed; fourteen more will be called to ask about renewing. Two households joined in July.

The Jane Fund is almost up with donations from 85 people.

The Annual Appeal work has begun! The list of solicitees is 1,100 strong; however, about 600 of the people have no designated note-writer. In the past, Judy Bentley and Jeannie Hart have written notes to these people. Board members are asked to look at the list to see whether they can write notes to some of these people. Barb will email this list to the Board. For those Board members who wish to get a head start on their note-writing, please pick up some STAYING PUT note cards at the office. Judy will also devote her home for a week for note-writing and collating and stuffing in October. Lois Sandberg and Barb will meet to discuss the wording of the various solicit letters, and coordinate with the next newsletter.

Events in July were attended by 61 members, with a fun lunch for 21 members at Sally Campbell's, complete with the new STAYING PUT favorite: hot dogs.

Finances for July included dues payments. The NCCF Agency Fund had a 4.93% increase and is in line with expectations. Tom Turrentine pointed out that if the Fund gets to 10% increase at the end of 2014, in ten years the STAYING PUT fund will have doubled.

Administration of The Jane Fund will be discussed by the Exec Board. Options include investing in improved technology in the office. This includes newer computers and better interface between them, and also better data management programs. Thanks to Pete Stair who has been an STAYING PUT mainstay for STAYING PUT in this area. The Excel program that is in use now is very time consuming. A professional will be asked to help set the office computers up with better systems. As Jenniam Foundation suggested, it is time for STAYING PUT to invest in itself.

Sue Scannell and Patti Gianakos and her son are researching 8 different contact management systems. STAYING PUT will continue to use Assisted Rides.

Thanks to Judy Bentley, STAYING PUT Membership and Volunteers had a great location and presence at the July sidewalk sale. Sharing with Getabout demonstrated the synergy between the two organizations. It was also nice to have Patti selling the jewelry at the STAYING PUT table. Donna sent emails to all those who signed up to volunteer, and the "Want to be a Good Neighbor" cards were given to anyone who showed interest.

Membership will share a table with New Canaan Sewing Group at the Sept. 6 Farmer's Market; it is very possible that STAYING PUT will get more volunteers than new members.

Membership will also have a table outside of Walgreens on Thurs., Aug 28 from 1 – 3 PM, and outside of Stewart's Market on Sunday, Sept. 7. These last two will only happen in decent weather. A sign-up sheet for Board members to participate was passed around the table. Anyone interested and available for these dates, please email Peggy Jay.

Nancy got the story on Jane published in both local papers. STAYING PUT was pleased to get some more free publicity in the article on Jane Williams in the Aug. 7 New Canaan Advertiser.

Events Committee will meet the first week in September to discuss the kinds of events that are best attended and best serve the membership. It appears that the membership prefers “consumption” oriented events over lectures and trips to view art or visit Staying Putecial properties. Perhaps this is because the membership is becoming more elderly and less able to get around new places. Tea and cookies or wine and cheese parties may attract more members. Lois Sandberg, Lila Coleman, Judy Bentley, and Barb all offered to host this kind of event. Personal phone calls to new members will also help to get them involved, as will quarterly “welcome to STAYING PUT” tea or wine events.

Volunteers: Young Women’s League offered to list STAYING PUT as a volunteer opportunity for its members. Joel Pelzner and Lyn Chivvis hope this will recruit some volunteers, and Lyn wrote to Stephanie Latrenta to list some of the opportunities for volunteering with STAYING PUT. In any case, Stephanie will write a bit about STAYING PUT, so that’s good publicity! NB: YWL has done pumpkins and wreath making for STAYING PUT for a few years.

George Brakely has volunteered to spearhead a history of STAYING PUT and has received a “tsunami of stuff” from Barb and Tom. used and what form it should take!

The meeting closed at 5:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lyn Chivvis, Secretary to the Board

8/14/14