

## Volunteer of the month

The SPA is happy to announce not one but two volunteers to showcase this month. David Watkins and Bradley Michelson have given their time generously to several local organizations and work together as a team on the Board of Representatives for District 1 (Shippan and the Cove.)



David Watkins



Bradley Michelson

David Watkins has lived in Shippan since moving from London in 1997 with his wife Patti. He quickly became involved in the community by serving as a Board Member of the Connecticut Grand Opera and Orchestra. David was also a founding member of the "Save our Boatyard" group.

David was appointed our District 1 representative in 2014 after Mary Uva resigned. He successfully ran for reelection in 2015 and 2017. He is Chairman of the Transportation Committee, is a member of the Steering and Operations committees, and has served on special committees throughout his tenure.

Bradley Michelson moved to Shippan from Manhattan in 2016 with his partner (now husband) Garrett. He has served on several Boards at the City University of New York where he held workshops for more than 1,000 students, largely from underserved communities. He enjoys advocating for doing good as an important addition to one's personal and professional life.

After driving through the horribly timed traffic light on Magee and Shippan Ave. for a year, he decided to run for a seat on the Board of Representatives and was elected in 2017. He is the Deputy Minority Leader, Co-chair of the Land-Use Committee, former Vice-chair and current member of the Transportation Committee, and a member of the Housing Community Development & Social Services Committee. He also served in 2019/20 as the Chair of the Government Subcommittee for the 2020 Census.

Bradley and David participate in four or more BOR related meetings each month, most of which are in the evenings. And a reminder: BOR members are not compensated for their time! They have worked as a team on many projects to make Stamford and Shippan a better place to live. Here are just a few: The repaving of Shippan Ave, The Mill River Project, improved rules around beach parking and the Residential Parking Program, creating the city's first Affordable Housing Trust Fund, and assisting constituents with requests for pothole filling and other city services.

Shippan should be very thankful for the commitment and effort David and Bradley have made to improving life on the Point.