



Town of Ridgefield

Minutes of Meeting of the Board of Compassionate Ridgefield (amended)
March 3, 2026, 5:00- 6:30PM
Town Hall Small Conference Room
400 Main Street
Ridgefield, CT 06877

Attendance: Martha Morris, Carol Mahlstedt, Jennifer Tejada, Ezra Zimmerman, (On phone: Shelly Fisher, Bob Cascella)

Absent: Rudy Marconi, Margee Rodgers

Martha Morris called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

1. Secretary's Report

The February 3, 2026 minutes were read and approved.

2. Treasurer's Report

a. Bob Cascella reported a balance of \$ 3557.06

b. Bob Cascella reported that he met with Jill Maguire of Union Bank to start process of opening an account. They drafted a resolution which needs to be signed by the CR Secretary (Shelly Fisher) which will then allow CR to open an account. Bob Cascella will then transfer some funds (approximately \$500) from the TOR Friends of Ridgefield account into Union Savings Bank.

c. Carol Mahlstedt motioned that Bob proceed further in this process to open this account and transfer funds. The motion carried unanimously.

d. Bob Cascella will consider how much money to leave in the Union account versus the TOR account and will place on the agenda for discussion at our next meeting.

e. Bob Cascella also mentioned that when the officers of CR change, the new officers must meet with Union Bank and sign authorizations.

3. Youth Ambassador Program report

a. Carol Mahlstedt reported that we have 3 nominations for CR Ambassadors and raised the issue of establishing an interview committee. A sub committee was formed (Ezra Zimmerman, Margee Rodgers and Carol Mahlstedt) to interview nominees.

- b. Interviews will take place after April 15.
- c. Advertising for nominations will continue until April 15

d. CR's Compassionate Teen's Instagram had a post this week but it is unclear who made the post. Carol Mahlstedt will reach out to Donnelly Rodgers to see if he knows. It was felt that CR should be aware who is moderating CR Teen Instagram.

4. Ridgefield Coalition for Compassion / Summit for Compassion report

a. Jennifer Tejada, Bob Cascella and Martha Morris met to discuss the September meeting which is tentatively titled the Summit for Compassion or Coalition for Compassion to be held on September 25, approximately 8:30 AM in Ridgefield Library. Jennifer Tejada will reserve the space when the library allows.

b. A list of invitees was tentatively developed, primarily town leaders, who will be asked to send a designee if they cannot attend.

c. A larger invite list will be developed using the CR database which needs some editing. When the email database is sent to CR board members, they are tasked with reviewing it and helping to edit outdated entries.

d. Members were reminded to open and use TOR emails.

e. Martha drafted an invitation.

f. The program for the meeting was briefly discussed, including whether we should have one or two speakers, use breakout groups for discussion or a Round Table format. Jennifer Tejada read our mission / vision statement as a potential way to shape the meeting's program.

5. Art Council collaboration - Roundtable March 20

a. Martha Morris reported that she is unable to attend. Jennifer Tejada and Bob Cascella will attend in her place.

6. Tentative A.C.T. of CT collab for *Dear Evan Hansen* talk-back (May/June)

a. Martha Morris had an email exchange with Dan Levine regarding a potential collaboration but there is no further news.

7. T-Shirt and other merch report

a. Ezra Zimmerman displayed the mock-ups of 2 t-shirt designs.

b. Martha Morris suggested that our tag line "it's who we are" should be on the shirts so a discussion followed regarding placement. It was decided that placing it under the word "compassion" in a smaller font would look best. She also pointed out that a period should be removed for grammatical reasons.

c. Bob Cascella raised the issue of a budget for the shirts. Ezra Zimmerman will discuss with the manufacturer (Hometown Spirit Wear) the pricing for two designs in a variety of sizes.

8. Martha Morris raised for discussion various upcoming events when we might want to be present, have a table and sell merchandise, such as Pride in the Park (June 6, 12-3:00) and the Ridgefield Town Party (May 31).

a. Both events have entry fees.

b. The possibility of selling t-shirts, coins and signing pledges was discussed, along with having a print-out of our mission statement.

c. Bob Cascella raised the issue of developing a budget for the year which would include entry fees and cost of t-shirts so that we can plan adequately.

d. Martha Morris made a motion that we attend both events. Carol Mahlstedt seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

9. Other new business

a. There was no new business.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:07 PM.

Next month's meeting will be on Tuesday, April 7th, from 5-6:30 PM in Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Mahlstedt