

Town of Ridgefield

Meeting of the Board of Compassionate Ridgefield

February 3, 2026, 5:00- 6:30PM

Town Hall Large Conference Room

400 Main Street, Ridgefield, Ct

Attendance: Bob Cascella, Martha Morris, Shelly Fisher, Carol Mahlstedt, Jennifer Tejada, Margee Rodgers, and Rudy Marconi

Absent: Ezra Zimmerman

Martha Morris called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m.

1. Secretary's Report

The January 6th minutes were reviewed and approved with the following changes:

- a. Under the Youth Ambassador agenda item, the second sentence was changed to read, "It was agreed to spearhead the committee for the school year 2026-2027." In the third sentence a spelling error of a board member was corrected to read, "Margee Rodgers."

2. Treasurer's Report

- a. Bob reported the C.R. January balance is \$3532.06
- b. Bob spoke with Jane at Town Hall to confirm that donations to CR can be made on line via the Compassionate Ridgefield website. The donations will be reviewed and the monies will be allocated to Compassionate Ridgefield.
- c. Venmo update: Bob stated that the Venmo account is possible to establish once we have a designated bank account. The bank requires three signatures to establish the account. Bob further reported that a Trade Name Certificate is needed and he will begin the process with the town clerk.

3. Youth Ambassador Program

- a. Update on call for 2026-2027 nominations
 1. Carol reported we have two applications so far.
 2. The application deadline of April 15th was confirmed.
 3. The selection of applicants will be announced in May or early June.
 4. Carol and Margee met and have created an email to send to town leaders to seek applicants. A press release will be sent out, as well.

4. Ridgefield Coalition for Compassion

- a. Martha reported a target date of September for the Fall Kick off. It was decided to create a subcommittee to meet and that they would report back to the board at our next meeting. The committee of Martha, Jennifer, and Bob selected a date for their first meeting to strategize about dates, topics, locations, and to compile a list of people to invite to the summit. They will report at the next board meeting.

5. Arts Council Collaboration

- a. Martha reported that C.R. has been added to the list of organizations invited to the Executive Directors Roundtable Meetings. She will attend the Executive Board Meeting on February 4th and will introduce C.R. to the council.

6. Update on meeting with the Commission on Aging

- a. Martha met with Patty Yaffa, the co-chair of the Commission on Aging at her request to discuss their plans for an adult daycare. CR does not have the information on the senior population Patty was looking for. Martha communicated that the CR are willing to help as their plans develop.

7. T-Shirt and other merch

- a. A subcommittee of Carol, Shelly, and Ezra was created to work on finalizing a T-shirt for C.R. They will meet and report back at the next board meeting.

8. Other New Business Items

- a. Martha asked Rudy How can C.R. best serve the town?
- b. Rudy's response was:
 1. To continue to spread compassion in our town.
 2. And he will help in any way he can to help our board and our town.

The meeting was adjourned 6:29 P.M.

Next month's meeting will be on Tuesday March 3rd from 5-6:30 P.M. in Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Shelly Fisher, Secretary