Town of Ridgefield

Meeting of the Board of Compassionate Ridgefield

November 10, 5:00- 6:30 p.m.

Town Hall Small Conference Room

400 Main Street, Ridgefield, CT

Attendance: Martha Morris, Shelly Fisher, Jennifer Tejada,

Carol Mahlstedt, Rudy Marconi, Bob Cascella, Beth Yavenditti, and Margee Rodgers

Absent: None

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

1. **Secretary's Report: October 2026 Minutes**

The October minutes were approved as read.

2. **Treasurer's Report**

Bob Casella reports the current balance at $3,137.56

3. **Brainstorm for 2027**

A. Summitt follow up

Martha reviewed the summit event with the following ideas and plans going forward. Other board members shared their sense of the summit including:

1. The summit was a vehicle for compassion in our community and the sense of there being intentional compassion working within our community.
2. It was a summit of listening to others, sharing thoughts and uplifting.
3. A goal of CR is to be ambassadors of our community and to promote ideas with other town leaders.
4. Carol will create a Ven diagram to share with the summit attendees on how they may collaborate with each other.

B. Next Summit

It was agreed by the board that the summit should be held yearly.

C. Discuss Survey – The survey discussion was tabled for now.

D. Videos and PR

1. The board discussed and agreed to follow up with interviews of attendees for promoting on social media and showcasing their compassion. The following people were suggested for interviewing : Jake Greenwood (High School Principal, Brenda McKinnley (director of the library), Megan Roach (Parks and Rec), Tim Salen (Principal of Scotts Ridge Middle School) and others.

2. Other goals are to produce videos to demonstrate what compassion is and the role it plays in our community. It was suggested to post videos twice every month.

E. Youth Ambassadors

a. Margee Rodgers reconfirmed that the Youth Ambassadors will speak at the following events in town:

1. 9/11 Memorial
2. Holiday Tree Lighting
3. MLK Birthday Observance.

b. It was agreed that the applications for the 2027-2028 Youth Ambassadors should be announced in February of 2027. And by promotion by our current youth ambassadors to attract more applications.

F. Possible collaborations

1. Utilize the town newsletter for CR and youth ambassador events.

2. Carol will make a list of town organizations (that include Holiday donations) that could be shared in videos and in the town newsletter.

G. Website

Jennifer Tejada will follow up with Kay Gelfman of the Tiger Shark Tank for further ideas of how to utilize our website effectively.

H. Other ideas

1.. Martha raised the idea and led a discussion of "How do we become part of the town charter? "Rudy Marconi shared the process with the board. Martha suggested that we move in that direction and will follow up with the town and the process to revise the charter.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30

Next month's meeting will be Tuesday, December 1 , from 5 to 6:30 p.m.in the Town Hall Conference Room.

Respectfully submitted,

Shelly Fisher