



Town of Ridgefield Compassionate Ridgefield Meeting

May 5, 2026 5:00 -6:45 PM
Town Hall Large Conference Room
400 Main Street, Ridgefield, Connecticut 06877

Attendance: Bob Cascella, Martha Morris, Carol Mahlstedt
Margee Rodgers, Ezra Zimmerman

Absent: Jennifer Tejada, Shelly Fisher, Rudy Marconi

Martha Morris called meeting to order at 5:08 PM

1. Secretary's report

Carol Mahlstedt noted that the date on the previous minutes was incorrect
Carol Mahlstedt also corrected that she was going to explore PayPal as a
donation option for "Click and Pledge, not Apple Pay.

The April minutes were amended and approved.

2. Treasurer's Report

\$60 was paid to Pride in Park for space at their event on June 6.
Bob Cascella reported that the CR balance is currently \$3496.06.

3. T-shirts and other Merch

- a. Ezra Zimmerman presented 2 t-shirt mockups that include the logo on the sleeve. Martha Morris noted that we agreed to place our tagline "It's Who We Are" in lowercase lettering, in a small font, on the front, centered under the word "Compassion"; Martha Morris also noted that the period should be removed from the back of the t-shirt with the definition of compassion. Ezra agreed to make these changes
- b. Ezra reported that the shirts will cost \$400-500; 25 shirts in a variety sizes.
- c. Bob Cascella moved that the T-shirt sub-committee make these changes and order the shirts. Carol Mahlstedt seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Upcoming Events

- A. Memorial Day Parade: Ezra Zimmerman will get the banner from Martha.
 1. Margee Rodgers raised possibility of Youth Ambassadors wearing t-shirts for the parade.

2. There was discussion of where Youth Ambassadors will march in the parade. Martha Morris noted they marched with Rudy Marconi in recent years. She will discuss this possibility with Rudy.
- B. Ridgefield Town Party: May 31; 2-4:00 PM; Martha, Jennifer, Margee and Carol can attend; set-up is 1:30; Martha will bring compassion counter cards and coins for sale; Jennifer will bring chairs; Ezra will bring candy as a give-away.
 - a. Carol Mahlstedt will explore source for compassion cards used a few years ago for future purchase.
 - b. There was discussion regarding the price of coins; the price of coins is \$20 for 2 coins.
- C. Pride in Park: June 6: 12-3:00 PM, Ballard Park; Jennifer Tejada and Shelly Fisher can attend
- D. ACT of CT: Evan Hansen Talk-Back is June 17; Martha Morris will moderate
 - a. Martha Morris reported that she will work with ACT on ½ page ad which they are generously donating.
 - b. The possibility of displaying compassion cards was discussed.
5. **Executive Session:** Margee Rodgers moved and Carol Mahlstedt seconded the motion to enter into executive session at 5:58 PM for the purpose of interviewing candidates for the Youth Ambassador initiative. Motion carried 5-0.
 - a. Margee Rodgers moved and Carol Mahlstedt seconded the motion to appoint the 2026-2027 Youth Ambassadors. Motion carried 5-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 PM.

Next month's meeting will be Tuesday, June 2, 2026, 5:00-6:30, Town Hall Conference Room.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Mahlstedt