

Draft Minutes of the Ridgefield Commission on Aging (CoA) Meeting
September 15, 2025, at 2:30pm
Large Conference Room, Town Hall

Co-Chair Yaffa called the meeting to order at 2:33PM which was the first Order of Business. Commissioners Culhane, Yaffa, Martin, Tewes, Orr, Richards and Kabasakalian were present. Also present Tony Phillips, Director of Social Services and Karen Gaudian, Municipal Agent for the Elderly. Commissioners Nolan and Mullin were excused. Eric Berkley attended as a guest. Margaret Thompson of Rides for Ridgefield attended as a presenter and Gary Roman of the Senior Tax Committee attended as a presenter.

As to the 2nd Order of Business, Ms. Yaffa invited public comment. There was none.

As to the 3rd Order of Business, approving the 6/16/2025 CoA Minutes - Mr. Tewes made a motion to approve said minutes and Ms. Kabasakalian seconded the motion. No discussion, the said Minutes were unanimously approved.

As to the 4th Order of Business, Housekeeping-Financials, Ms. Gaudian reported that we have \$166.00 remaining in our current budget. A final reconciliation was made for the Senior Expo funds; we have a total of \$43,466.00. There is a balance of \$156 in the Leir Fund.

As to the 5th Order of Business, Consideration of fund distribution - looking for action to fund pilot program presented by the Transportation Task Force. A Draft Pilot Outline was distributed to all. TTF is working with CoA, MOW, FH the Town and Commission for Accessibility. Pilot is to supplement Rides for Ridgefield. Additional funding for services comes from Grants. Discussion followed. Data is still being gathered. Ms. Orr made a motion for the CoA to allocate up to \$15,000 from the Senior Expo funds to engage in a trial period to enhance the transportation needs of our community. Mr. Richards seconded the motion. Said motion was passed unanimously. Ms. Yaffa will go before the BOS on 9/17/2025 and provide a progress report reflecting this.

A motion was made by Ms. Orr and seconded by Ms. Kabasakalian to discuss the Adult Daycare/health section under CoA Priorities, 9th Order of Business next. Motion passed unanimously

As to the 9th Order of Business, COA Priorities,- discussion on Adult Daycare/health by Mr. Tewes. Mr. Tewes provided two handouts resulting from his research. The closest similar existing facilities are in Sandy Hook and Norwalk. Discussed transportation to such facilities and the possibility to open one in Ridgefield based on private pay and affiliation with using Medicare options for payment. Private funds usage do not require a facility to have licenses. Further discussion will be carried over to the October board meeting.

As to the 6th Order of Business, Senior Tax Committee update by Gary Roman, Chair. Presentation included existing credit opportunities, its history and the proposed four recommended increases in said credits over time as will be presented to the Board of Finance and the BOS. Mr. Roman also provided hard copies of the presentation and additional research for the Commissioners to review separately. The CoA will be able to show continued support by attending said meetings. Mr. Roman will stay in touch with the CoA and advise as to the scheduled meetings to attend.

As to the 7th Order of Business - Election of Secretary, moved to the October Board meeting.

As to the 8th Order of Business, Report on 7/2026 Summerfest. Ms. Yaffa reported on its success and thanked the Commissioners and other volunteers for volunteering that day. Positive responses to getting new Gold Card Members, drivers for rides for Ridgefield, awareness for the Sr. Voices program and handing out CoA bags for all. This was a great opportunity to promote the CoA awareness throughout our community.

As to the 9th Order of Business, CoA Priorities. all agreed on the suggestions.

- Transportation, previously discussed.
- Food Insecurity, moved to October Board meeting.
- Senior Voices, Ms. Yaffa stated the 9/30 forum hosts Karen Gaudian discussing Medicare and the OEP (10/7 - 12/15). Ms. Yaffa and prior Chair Mr. Ternullo will be counselors again. The 11/30 forum hosts RidgefieldCT Pride and there is no forum held in December. Months are being filled for 2026.
- Senior Housing, moved to October board meeting.
- Adult Daycare/health, previously discussed.
- Digital Divide, moved to October Board meeting.

As to the 10th Order of Business, Commendations. Ms. Yaffa reported that Rutvi Vohra received hers and was very touched and happy. Additional commendations are in process.

As to the 11th Order of Business, New Business. Mrs. Yaffa handed out CoA bags. Booklets and bags will be given out to those who enroll with the Town during the OEP at both locations, the Library and Founders Hall. 9/17/2025 BOS - Ms. Yaffa is up for reappointment and Ms. Yaffa and Margaret Thompson and Tony Phillips will provide a CoA update on the partial use of the Expo Funds per the Transportation Task Force Pilot program. Commissioners Martin, Culhane and Tewes' terms are up for reappointment as of 4/1/2026. They were asked to consider reappointment and notify CoA Co-Chairs ahead of 4/1/2026.

As to the 12th Order of Business, Next Meeting date of October 20th was announced.

As to the 13th Order of business, there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:27PM following a motion made by Ms. Kabasakalian and seconded by Ms. Martin, no further discussion, passed unanimously

The above is a true and accurate summary of the CoA 9/15/2025 meeting.

Patricia Yaffa
Acting Secretary