Minutes of the Ridgefield Commission on Aging (CoA) Meeting
October 20, 2025, at 2:30pm
Small Conference Room, Town Hall

Co-Chair Yaffa called the meeting to order at 2:32PM which was the first Order of Business. Commissioners Culhane, Martin, Tewes, Orr, Mullin and Kabasakalian were present. Also present Tony Phillips, Director of Social Services and Karen Gaudian, Municipal Agent for the Elderly. Co-Chair Nolan was excused and Commissioner Richards was not present. Eric Berkley and Carolina Gahagan attended as guests.

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

As to the 3rd Order of Business, approving the 9/15/2026 CoA Minutes - Ms. Kabasakalian made a motion to approve, seconded by Ms. Mullin. Said minutes were approved as submitted.

As to the 4th Order of Business, Housekeeping-Financials, Ms. Gaudian reported that we have $166.00 remaining in our current budget plus $156 remaining in the Leir fund budget for a total of $322.

As to the 5th Order of Business, election of Carmen Martin as CoA Secretary. Ms. Kabasakalian made said motion and Ms. Mullin seconded. No discussion. Said motion was unanimously approved.

As to the 6th Order of Business, CoA Priorities: Transportation - Yaffa and Phillips shared that there is no update as the Transportation Task Force has not met since September and is meeting on 10/22/25. They did report that we went before the BOS on 9/17/25 to provide an update and progress report, further stating to the BOS that the CoA had unanimously agreed to allocate up to $15,000 of the Expo funds for the transportation pilot program which is being finalized. The BOS was pleased and thanked us for the update. We will be sharing progress reports with the BOS as we go through this process and pilot program.Food Insecurity - Phillips reported that the department sees about 110 Ridgefielders a month and went over statistics from The United Way. Additional help/donations are always welcomed and needed. A motion was made to give the Bags from Stew Leonards to the use of the Food Truck to help those collecting items. Ms Mullin made the motion seconded by Mr. Tewes. No discussion, said motion passed unanimously. Senior Voices - Ms. Yaffa and Ms. Mullin shared that we are filing spots for 2026 and that the 11/18/25 Sr. Voices presenter is RidgefieldCT Pride. Senior Housing - Ms. Kabasakalian discussed the need for affordable housing in Ridgefield and that a recent survey from the Expo showed that 60% of survey takers preferred to be able to purchase a home rather than rent. She and Mr. Richard's will meet and present additional information to the CoA at the next board meeting in November Adult Day Health - Mr. Tewes and Mr. Berkley discussed that they continue to explore potential short term and long term models to work on, the possibility of renting space at an existing facility as well.Discussed that there are approximately 248 Ridgefield residents qualifying for Husky C. Digital Divide - Ms. Yaffa shared that the meetings with the library had resumed. The plan is to explore possible use of the library and a smaller number, maybe 10 people to have use of a laptop to be able to make a social connection. The group will meet in November and get greater clarity as to next steps.

As to the 7th Order of Business - Commendation: recently given to Joe Ternullo, Lisa Ternullo, Dee Tufariello, John Kazzi and Carolina Gahagan. All recipients were thrilled and surprised.

As to the 8th Order of Business, New Business: Senior Voices discussed above. Meadow Ridgefield facility tour - The group suggested November 3rd as a date, Ms. Yaffa reached out to her contact and will confirm with the Commission. Update production of digital Senior Central Directory - to be continued, possibly creating a flyer with a QR code that goes to the CoA page on the Town website.Yaffa - appointed by the BOS to serve a second term until 4/1/2027. Rack Cards - working on a re-order. Gold Card - New cards to be ordered. Expansion to possibly include Redding mentioned which will be further discussed as to benefits of the same prior to reorder of new Gold Cards.

As to the 9th Order of Business, Next Meeting Date of November 17, 2025 was announced.

As to the 10th Order of Business there was no further business before the CoA, the meeting was adjourned at 3:58PM following a motion made by Ms. Martin and seconded by Ms. Kabasakalian, no further discussion, passed unanimously.

The above is a true and accurate summary of the CoA 10/20/2025 meeting.

Patricia Yaffa
Acting Secretary