

Town of Ridgefield

Meeting of the Board of Compassionate Ridgefield

April 7, 2026, 5:00- 6:30PM

Town Hall Large Conference Room

400 Main Street, Ridgefield, Ct

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

Absent: Ezra Zimmerman and Jennifer Tejada

Martha Morris called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m.

1. Secretary's Report

The March 3rd minutes were amended in front of Carol Mahlstedt. Rudy Marconi seconded. It was approved by the other board members.

2. Treasurer's Report

- a. Bob Cascella reported the C.R. April balance is \$3557.06
- b. Venmo update: Bob Cascella reported that due to CR being a part of The Friends of Ridgefield, CR can't have its own bank account including a Venmo account. Bob reported that Jane Hill at Town Hall each month allocates any donations or other monies received under the umbrella of the Friends of Ridgefield to Compassionate Ridgefield.
- c. Long term ideas: Carol Mahlstedt will check adding Apple Pay to the donation QR code on the web site to allow access for payment. For now, the other forms of credit card payments will remain in effect.

3. Youth Ambassador Program Report

- a. Update on call for 2026-2027 nominations
 1. Carol Mahlstedt reported at this time there are 3 applications to date.
 2. Carol Mahlstedt will send out one more email blast to invite nominations with the April 15th deadline pending.
- b. Interview process
 1. A motion was made by Carol Mahlstedt to hold the interviews of the candidates at a CR board meeting. Shelly Fisher seconded the motion. The motion was approved 4-1. Mr. Cassella voted no.

2. The sub-committee members (Margee Rodgers, Carol Mahlstedt and Ezra Zimmerman) will create 7 questions for the interview process. Each board member will be assigned a question to ask at the time of the interview.
3. Margee will notify the candidates after the April 15th deadline. Bob suggested that we consider inviting the candidates to the June board meeting.

4. Ridgefield Coalition for Compassion/Summit for Compassion report

- a. Date: The date has been changed from September 25 to October 2 at the library. The time will be 8:30 am.
- b. The attendance and structure of the event was discussed.
- c. Martha Morris and other board members in attendance agreed they prefer the name “Ridgefield Coalition for Compassion” for the event.

5. Arts Council Collaboration

- a. March 20 round table report. The report was tabled till next month’s board meeting.

6. Tentative A. C. T. of CT collaboration for Dear Evan Hansen talk-back (May/June)

- a. Martha Morris reported there is not an update at this time.

7. T-Shirt and other merch report.

- a. The report was tabled till next month’s board meeting.

8. Upcoming events to be a part of:

- a. Pride, June 6th, 12- 3PM.
 1. Carol Mahlstedt will fill out the form for the event.
- b. Ridgefield Town Party, May 31
 1. Margee Rodgers reported there is no fee for this event and will fill out the form to attend.

9. Other New Business Items

- a. Pledge Book- Martha Morris suggested we bring back the signing of the pledge and suggested a magnet or other merch be given to the person signing the pledge.

- b. Counter Cards: Martha Morris suggested the Compassionate Ridgefield counter cards should be re-distributed to various places in town. Rudy Marconi will place a set in town hall. Other sites to be named.
- c.

The meeting was adjourned 6:35 P.M.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Shelly Fisher, Secretary