

Town of Ridgefield

Meeting of the Board of Compassionate Ridgefield

September 1, 2026, 5:00- 6:30PM

Town Hall Small Conference Room

400 Main Street, Ridgefield, Ct

Attendance: Bob Casella, Martha Morris, Shelly Fisher, Jennifer Tejada, Carol Mahlstedt and Margee Rodgers

Absent: Rudy Marconi

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

1. Secretary's Report: August 2026 Minutes

The August minutes were approved as read.

2. Treasurers Report

Bob Casella reported the current balance is \$3,406.06

3. Confirm time and day of 2027 meetings

All board members agreed to maintain the current time (5-6:30p.m) on the first Tuesday of the month. The one exception is the November meeting will be on November 10th due to the first Tuesday of the month being Election Day.

4. Open board position- update on process

- a. Martha Morris reported that she and Rudy Marconi have met with one of the potential board members. And Martha is in working on scheduling a meeting with the second potential board member.
- b. After some discussion, the board suggested that if both candidates present as good board members it would be beneficial to add them to the board.

5. Discuss possible town survey on compassion.

- a. The board members reported that after looking at the survey it would be a good tool to assess the level of compassion in Ridgefield. And it would be a good jumping off-point and focus for the upcoming summit. Carol Mahlstedt agreed to write a press

release. Martha will send the survey link to correlate with the sites suggested below.

- b. The following sites were suggested to distribute the survey and a press release.
 - 1. The Town Newsletter.
 - 2. Social Media sites
 - 3. PTA newsletters.
 - 4. The Ridgefield Herald

6. Discuss and plan October 2nd Summit event.

- 1. The invitation was reviewed and Jen will complete the suggested edits before it is sent.
- 2. The contact list was reviewed by some of the board members before the meeting. All board members were asked to review final contact list that Jennifer Tejada will re-send to all the board members for final agreement.
- 3. The invitation will be sent by email on Wednesday September 9th.
- 4. Food and timing -The time of the summit will be from 8:30 to 10:00. Jen will confirm with the library if it's possible to set up the evening before the event. Coffee will be served to the guests.

7. Other new business.

- 1. Shelly Fisher suggested that having a set day and week to promote the compassion acts in Ridgefield on social media sites would be to have a link for Compassionate Ridgefield noted on a consistent posting. Margee Rodgers volunteered to lead the campaign. It was agreed to further discuss this issue at the next meeting.
- 2. Youth Ambassadors Update.
 - a. Carol reported the youth ambassadors now have access to post on the Youth Ambassadors Instagram site.
 - b. Carol suggested that the Youth Ambassadors be invited to a board meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:25 pm.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday October 6 from 5:00 to 6:30 pm in Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Shelly Fisher