

Town of Ridgefield

Special Meeting of the Board of Compassionate Ridgefield

July 2, 2026, 5:30 6:30PM

Town Hall Large Conference Room

400 Main Street, Ridgefield, Ct

Attending: Bob Cascella, Martha Morris, Shelly Fisher, Jennifer Tejada, Margee Rodgers, and Carol Mahlstedt

Absent: Rudy Marconi

Martha Morris called the meeting to order at 5:35p.m.

1. **Secretary's Report:** Minutes June 2025

The June minutes were approved as read.

2. **Treasurer's Report**

Bob Cascella reported the current balance is \$3,382.06.

3. **Open Board Position:** discuss potential nominations

a. Martha Morris has scheduled a notice to be posted in the *Town Newsletter* next week.

b. Other suggestions to advertise:

1. Social Media now and in the fall.

2. The PTA's newsletter in September.

4. **Debrief Events**

a. *Pride in the Park*: Jennifer Tejada reported that several people visited our table and signed the pledge. Carol Mahlstedt suggested that next year we need strategies to attract attention.

b. *Dear Evan Hansen* Talk Back: Martha reported that it went well and the audience was engaged and participated. Extensive suicide-prevention information was shared.

c. Carol suggested that CR continue to partner with A.C.T. during its 2027 staging of *Avenue Q* from February 4-March 7. Martha will contact Artistic Director Dan Levine to collaborate this.

5. **Youth Ambassador Program Report**- next steps

- a. Carol Mahlstedt met with two of the ambassadors – Aidan and Adelle Reid. They agreed to assume management of the social media for the *Youth Ambassadors*. They will meet again with Rudy Weiner at the end of July to discuss possible projects.
 - b. Margee Rodgers outlined the four town events in which the youth ambassadors will participate during the next school calendar year:
 1. The 9-11 Memorial Ceremony
 2. Veterans Day Ceremony
 3. The Tree Lighting Event
 4. Martin Luther King, Jr. Observance
 - c. It was suggested that we begin the *Youth Ambassador Application* for the school year 2027-28 school year in January of 2027
6. **Ridgefield Coalition for Compassion Event – 10/2/26**
1. Jennifer Tejada has formally applied to the library to hold the event there and is waiting for a reply.
 2. Martha Morris will create an invitation.
 3. Margee Rodgers will send the contact list to Martha.
 4. After much discussion on the theme of the event, it was decided that our August 4th meeting will be the focus of planning for the event.
7. **Upcoming events**
- Summer Fest- It was decided that – with board members being out of town – that CR will not participate this year.
8. **Other New Business:**
- Ridgefield Blight Prevention Board*- Martha talked about CR considering supporting families needing help with their property.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

The next meeting will be a special meeting on August 4th from 4 to 5:30 in Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted.

Shelly Fisher

