

Compassionate Ridgefield Meeting Minutes
January 6, 2026, 5:00- 6:30PM
Town Hall Large Conference Room, 400 Main Street

Attendance: Bob Cascella, Martha Morris, Shelly Fisher, Carol Mahlstedt, and Jennifer Tejada

Absent: Rudy Marconi, Margee Rodgers, and Ezra Zimmerman

Martha Morris called the meeting to order at 5:06pm

1. Secretary's Report:

The December 2, 2025 minutes were approved as written.

2. Treasurer's Report:

Bob reported the December balance of CR at \$3,256. Bob spoke with Wendy and the Town Controller and confirmed that any donations or other income will remain the same: i.e: going through the Friends of Ridgefield. Bob will check on how the donations are processed through CR's web site.

3. Nomination and vote on Vice Chair for CR

Carol Mahlstedt motioned to elect Jennifer Tejada as Vice Chair. Bob Cascella seconded. The motion passed 4-0.

4. Youth Ambassador Program

Carol Mahlstedt suggested that the program won't happen in this current school year because the school year is too far along. She agreed to spearhead the committee for the school year 2026-2027. Carol will contact Margie Rodgers to collaborate. The application deadline of April 15th, 2026, was agreed. Several ideas on how to reach potential ambassadors were suggested:

1. Press releases to the Town Newsletter, the CR social media sites, PTA council and high school newsletter, and the Boys and Girls Club.

5. Ridgefield Coalition for Compassion

1. Martha presented ideas of modeling the Arts Council for how to reach out to the community to publicize our events.

Ideas of what CR would like to pursue to create the coalition include:

1. Schedule of Fall Kickoff event in middle to late September that would be a summit inviting community members to attend.
2. Board members will utilize the town's web site listing all 501.c.3 members to contact and invite people to attend.
3. Martha's further ideas and questions to address at the next meeting: "Why is CR good for our town?" And to Include in the town newsletter and other sites all the good that is happening in our community.
4. Martha and Jennifer will meet during the month to further identify CR's goals for creating the coalition.

6. Compassion Coins

1. There was discussion and a suggestion that CR would do a re-marketing campaign for selling our coins. The suggested price would be \$5.00 per coin if purchaser would like to pay.
2. Bob will revisit with the town on how CR can create a Venmo account to accept payment.

7. T-Shirt

At this time the board decided to table the selection of the T-shirt graphics. The board members were asked to look at several sites with ideas and will present those ideas at the next board meeting.

8. Painting the Chair in front of Town Hall

Carol reported the chair which is owned by CR and needs to be repainted. The board agreed and time will be determined. Jennifer suggested reaching out to vendors in town who may donate the paint.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:36 P.M.

Next month's meeting will be on Tuesday February 3rd from 5-6:00 PM in Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted, Shelly Fisher, Secretary