



**Ridgewood Community ACCESS Committee  
Meeting Minutes 4/25/25**

The ZOOM meeting began at 2:03pm.

Present: Jaimie Davis, Jesse Schwartzmann, Surbhi Kapadia, Robin Ritter, Ashley Loria, Deanna Schablik, Frank Mortimer, Joanne Stolfo, Jeff Hofmann, Sheila Brogan, Laura McKenna, Jan Philips, Erica Dunckley

***Item 1: Welcome***

Jaimie welcomed everyone to the meeting. Jaimie introduced Frank Mortimer, the newest member of Village Council. Minutes from the March meeting were approved. Motion by Ashley, seconded by Deanna. Motion passed.

***Item 2: Executive Board Reports***

Erica announced that she will be resigning as Recording Secretary and Chair of the ACCESS Week patio party, but will stay on until replacements are found. Everyone thanked Erica for her service. Jesse offered to help with the food. Deanna said she would be happy to contact food vendors as well.

***Item 3: Health Dept. - Surbhi:*** In the month of April, both Danielle and Surbhi had visited all the classes at the Glen pre-school as well as the Special Needs classroom at RHS to do a workshop on germs and hand-washing. A few upcoming programs: Monday May 28 is the Mental Health First Aid training. Bergen County will lead the all-day training for 3 yr certification. 17-18 people from Bergen County are registered. Tuesday May 29 they are partnering with Northeast New Jersey Legal Services and Parks and Rec to provide a program on Elder Justice. On May 8 in collaboration with the Library and Valley there will be a virtual program about advocating for your child's IEP. The free rabies clinic will be drive-thru on May 7 at the Graydon Pool parking lot. After the shot, dog owners can then renew their dog's license. The Health Dept. has received three federal grants. Two have been cut abruptly. The funding for one should have gone through June of 2025 and the other through March 2026. The third grant should be renewed for another year but they haven't heard definitively yet. So they have received a stop work order, effective May 28. Several programs will have to be cut. And Surbhi and Danielle will lose their positions. Sheila commended them on their hard work saying, "The Health Dept. has never been so healthy." She said it will be a true loss for our community.

***Item 4: Village Council: Frank:*** Daffodil Festival is this Sunday. He's been involved since the first year, 2012 when we had 12 vendors. This year we'll have 63. Also they approved the grant for the playground at Habernickel. And the budget was approved to remediate the soil at Schedler. He is pleased with the budget. The tax increase is only 3.14%, which is about \$150/year for the average homeowner. No services were cut. He's also on the Citizen's Safety Committee. He is making a big push for increasing pedestrian safety. So in the budget were the crosswalks with the blinking lights and also the electronic signs showing drivers' speed. If anyone has any safety concerns please reach out to Frank. Jaimie said this will be very helpful



for our population. Deanna asked a question about the ebikes. She suggested partnering with the police dept. and Lisa, who is with Easy Ride, the co. they do the bike rodeos with. She would like to do a Zoom call about it and will include Frank, John and Sheila as well. Sheila had brought it up at a community board meeting. She'll be in touch with a few different dates. Frank said that the Village has strengthened the ordinance with the ebikes and skateboards in the CBD, off the sidewalks and out of the parking lots. There are a lot of safety issues.

***Item 5: Sensory-friendly Dinners: Jaimie***

The next one is coming up on April 30, this Wed. It's going to be at Raymond's from 5-8 pm. We've been having a robust attendance, about 40-50 people, and thanks to Ashley, a great flyer for every dinner. Jaimie is seeing many new names too, which is great. In May, we're hoping to do Baumgart's. Paul Vagianos has been helping to source the restaurants. In June we will be coordinating with the Touch-a-Truck event with the Fire Dept.

The Village has very generously covered the cost of the craft supplies and toys that Jaimie provides for the children at the dinners. It's about \$500/year. Just before this meeting, Jaimie, Jesse and Siobhan interviewed a potential intern for ACCESS. The intern would start by helping with the dinners, creating an email list for people who would like to be notified about the dinners.

***Item 6: SEPAG: Jaimie***

Jaimie will be finishing up her time as the president of SEPAG in the district at their June 10 meeting. Meghann Bierly and Dave Rosen will be taking over as the new co-presidents. Today our new Director of Special Services, Alicia Pavone, started at the District. SEPAG wants to have good communication with the district and the Board's administration, processing parent feedback - how families are experiencing special ed in the district. Going forward Meghann and/or Dave will attend our meetings and give the special ed update along with Sheila too.

***Item 7: HILT: Deanna***

Wonderful trip to the Newark Museum. The library offers free passes to it. And the Planetarium as well. She was very enthusiastic about their staff too.

They had their first Lunch and Learn through our foundation at the community center on April 2. 55 seniors attended the talk about adaptive gardening with Chris Ramondi the speaker. The lunch was paid for by the foundation. The next one will be on May 27, sponsored by Valley Hospital. She is waiting on the topic for that. Bagel breakfast at Graydon on May 31. Also they did get approved for the ROID grant which supports their programs. Great news.

***Item 8: Old Business***

CPR Training with the Fire Dept. that Siobhan coordinated. Jaimie, Robin and Erica attended yesterday. The next one is May 8.



## VILLAGE OF RIDGEWOOD



### ***Item 9: New Business***

New recording secretary: Jaimie said there is someone she might reach out to, and if anyone on the committee would like to step up, that would be good too.

Cara emailed Jaimie that the adaptive playgrounds in both Wayne and Clifton were paid for by donations.

Joanne brought up Siobhan's idea of perhaps combining ACCESS week with Pride Day. Maybe it had to do with Diana and Matt's commitment ceremony? She wasn't sure.

The meeting ended at 2:45pm.

***The next meeting will be Friday, May 16 at 2:00pm via ZOOM.***