



Access Ridgewood Meeting Minutes January 23, 2026

Present: Jaimie Davis; Emily Cathcart; Jesse Schwartzman; Danielle Caputo; Siobhan Winograd; Gregory Alter; Cara Lynn Robinson-Deutsch; Sarah Lenzi; Ashley Loria; Beth Abbott; Deanna Schablik; Meghann Bierly; Corinne Scarpa; Lynn Benson; Michelle Fenwick; Ruric Halaby; Sheila Brogan

1. Welcome/Approval of Minutes (Jaimie Davis)

Jaimie welcomed members of the Access Committee and members of the Stigma-Free Committee. Siobhan moved to approved the minutes from the December 19, 2025 meeting; Danielle seconded. The minutes were approved.

2. President's Report (Jaimie Davis)

Jaimie introduced members of the Access Committee to members of the Stigma-Free Committee. Beth Abbott, Corinne Scarpa, and Sarah Lenzi from Stigma-Free introduced themselves to the Access Committee.

3. Executive Board Reports (Jesse Schwartzman, Emily Cathcart)

a. Sensory-Friendly Dinners

Emily explained the sensory-friendly dinner program and how it has developed in the Village. The Access Committee is hoping to have a dinner at Puzo's on Monday, February 23 and at MacMurphy's on Tuesday, March 24. Emily will follow up with Paul Vagianos regarding booking those restaurants. Siobhan and Jaimie discussed that the program could be expanded or adapted toward other communities, such as the elderly community.

4. Village Council Report (Liaison Siobhan Winograd)

Siobhan provided an update on the Pull Over Properly ("POP") program, which supports the Blue Envelope Program and educates both law enforcement and the neurodivergent community about traffic stops. Siobhan explained that the Village is creating a video about the POP program. Siobhan has selected a film student to film the video over the summer or early spring, in connection with Ridgewood Police and Fire. The Village will



still run the in-person POP program. Siobhan expects that these efforts will result in media coverage and community outreach.

Paul Aronsohn reached out to the Village regarding placement of more special needs interns in the Village. Siobhan and others in the Village will work on this effort. Siobhan also reported that she meeting with the Fourth of July Committee about how we can make the Fourth of July festivities more accessible.

5. **SEPAG Report** (Meghann Bierly)

Meghann reported that Unified Ridgewood is holding a clinic with the Harlem Wizards on February 18. She also reported that the school district will be presenting on structured literacy in the district at SEPAG's upcoming meeting on February 20. The first part of that presentation is available on the SEPAG's website. Meghann noted that the information will be relevant to any parent of a young learner- regardless of whether the learner has special needs.

6. **Village Department Reports**

a. HILT (Deanna Schablik)

Deanna reported that the Lunch and Learn scheduled for January 27 has been postponed due to the weather to February 3 from 11:30-1:30. In February, new programs will start including the Recreation Opportunities for Individuals with Disabilities (Roid) Grant program. The Department has extended offers to two professionals to work on the program, hopefully starting at the end of February.

b. Health Department/Stigma Free (Danielle Caputo)

Danielle reported regarding upcoming programming, including the blood pressure clinics on the third Friday of every month; child health clinics on the fourth Tuesday of each month; and National Action Month for Radon in January, during which residents can obtain free radon testing kits.

Deanna and Danielle are partnering on a program with Valley Health on February 17 at 11am entitled Your Medicine Cabinet and a program on February 27 at 10am entitled Sleep Rescue: Secrets to Restful, Restorative Sleep.

7. **Stigma-Free Committee Reports**



Danielle provided a broad overview of the Stigma-Free Committee and highlighted some of its recent mental health programming (e.g., mental health first aid training; Narcan training; blues v. depression presentation; etc.) and its frequent partners, such as Valley Health System and West Bergen Mental Health.

8. **Old Business**

None.

9. **New Business**

a. Collaboration with Ridgewood Stigma-Free Committee

Danielle suggested that Stigma-Free and Access consider collaborating on programming in the future. For example, Ramsey did a recent program called Raising Resilient Children, which was a workshop with a psychologist.

Jaimie reminded the Committees that the Access Committee works to improve access for a range of communities, not just the neurodivergent community. Jaimie noted that there is often a mental health component to the struggles of those with neurodivergence. Perhaps the committees could collaborate on a program focused on anxiety or the mental health struggles of those with neurodivergence. Other committee members suggested programming on the loneliness epidemic or mental health of caregivers.

The Committees agreed that Emily would reach out to Megan Murphy, who runs the Village's "Sandwich Club", regarding a possible program on the mental health of caregivers. If Megan is interested in working on the program, she can attend Stigma-Free's next virtual meeting on February 17 at 3pm. During that meeting, the participants can discuss whether to present a program during the week of March 9 or on some later date. Anyone who is interested in working on this collaborative program can attend the February 17 Stigma-Free meeting.

The Committees decided to hold future collaborative meetings.

The Stigma-Free Committee's next meeting is on Tuesday, February 17, 2026 at 3:00pm via Zoom. The Access Committee's next meeting is on Friday, February 20, 2026 at 2:00pm via Zoom.