

**Approved Minutes of the
Resilient Hartford Meeting
February 23, 2022**

Resilient Hartford Members Present: Marsha Autilio, Frederica Graham, Dylan Kreis, Leah Mosenthal and chair Kye Cochran.

Resilient Hartford Liaisons Members Present: Energy Commission Liaison Lynn Bohi and Selectboard Liaison Ally Tufenkjian.

Others Present: Laura Brooks.

Staff Present: Matt Osborn, Town Planner.

A remote Resilient Hartford Meeting was held on Wednesday, February 23rd. Chair Kye Cochran called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. Kye read the script for remote meetings followed by a roll call of members and liaisons.

1. **Resilient Hartford Minutes of January 26, 2022:** Kye Cochran asked if there are any changes to the draft minutes of January 26th. There were none. Kye stated that the minutes are accepted as written by unanimous consent.
2. **2022 Resilient Hartford Work Program:** Dylan Kreis presented a proposal to host a fall harvest festival in late September or early October. It could include:
 - Local Music
 - Vegetable exchange
 - Resilience skills
 - Games for kids/families
 - Community building
 - Promotion of the Food Forest
 - Promotion of local agriculture

Dylan noted that we will have to develop a budget for the event and obtain a permit from the Parks and Recreation Department. We also may have to lease portable toilets. He noted that we will need a lot of volunteers and should seek partners for the event. He added that promotion of the event is critical. Kye Cochran volunteered to contact Vital Communities and the Upper Valley Food Co-op about partnering.

Kye Cochran stated that she really like the idea of a harvest festival. RH agreed. She would like it to be a zero-waste event. Kye suggested making a decision about the event next month after reviewing the Covid situation at that time. RH agreed. The next step would be to form a Steering Committee.

Matt Osborn asked if there are other ideas for the work program. Marsha Autilio suggested holding workshops. Dylan Kreis expressed concern to not take on too much given the amount of energy needed to focus on the Food Forest and possible Harvest Festival. Dylan also noted that implementation of the Hartford Hazard Mitigation Plan also falls within the responsibilities of RH. Ally Tufenkjian suggested working with Environmental Sustainability Coordinator Dana Clawson.

3. **Food Forest Update:** Matt Osborn reported that Permaculturalist Karen Ganey and the Food Forest Steering Committee completed a list of tree and shrub species for the Food Forest. Matt noted that without a reliable water source, we may have to limit the number of trees and shrubs planted in the spring. Kye Cochran suggested that the Steering Committee meet to discuss. Matt also noted that the

Food Forest Design Plan will be presented at the March 10th Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting.

Matt noted that once the Steering Committee decides on a planting list for the spring and fall plantings, we can develop a cost estimate and determine the need for additional funding from small grants. Matt reported that RH has \$1,371 remaining in this year's fiscal year budget ending June 30th. The next fiscal year begins July 1st and will be voted on by Town voters March 1st. Matt noted that typically, small grants (less than \$2000) only require Town Manager approval while larger grants have to be approved by the Selectboard. Matt stated that he will be preparing a memo to the Town Manager asking for requesting approval to apply for small grants with Town Manager's approval.

Regarding the Food Forest and flood regulations, Matt reported that he has spoken with representatives from the White River Partnership and Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee Regional Commission as well as an engineer from Pathways Consulting. Matt stated that staff will discuss alternatives and develop a recommendation for moving forward.

There was discussion about a dependable water source with using a pump to access water from the White River or a gutter and rain barrel system on the barn. Matt noted that the rain barrel system like the one approved for the Lyman Point Park Rain Garden would need a floodplain permit.

4. **Election of Officers:** Matt Osborn noted that it is time to elect officers to Resilient Hartford. He stated that we have elected chair and vice-chair in the past. He suggested appointing a treasurer to work with Matt to monitor the RH budget. Dylan Kreis stated that Kye has done an excellent job as chair. He nominated Kye to continue to serve as chair. The motion was seconded by Marsha Autilio and unanimously approved. There was discussion about who was willing to serve as vice-chair. There were no volunteers. Vice-chair Dylan Kreis stated that he was willing to serve as treasurer. It was agreed to continue discussion at next months meeting.
5. **Resilient Hartford Opening:** Matt Osborn reported that Marcia Gauvin recently submitted her resignation noting that she is too busy with her job to give RH the time that it deserves. Kye Cochran suggested thinking of people who would be a good fit for RH. Matt noted that Frederica Graham's term is up March 12th and she will need to submit an application for reappointment. Frederica stated that she has hasn't made her mind up whether she will reapply given new responsibilities in her life. Kye stated that she hopes Frederica will continue to serve on RH. Frederica responded that if she decides not to reapply, she will continue to volunteer on RH projects.
6. **Announcements:**
 - a. Bugbee Senior Center Garden: Matt Osborn reported that Mark Bradley of the Bugbee Senior Center contacted him that they are interested in starting a vegetable garden behind the building and was hoping RH could give them advice. Matt noted that he didn't think the back of Bugbee had enough direct sunlight for a garden. As an alternative, Kye Cochran suggested container gardening in areas that have more direct sun. Frederica Graham volunteered to talk to Mark Bradley.
 - b. CRO Vermont Status: Dylan Kreis asked about the status of CRO Vermont. Matt Osborn responded that their website appears active and they still list Mindy Blank as the Executive Director. Matt will inquire about their current status.
7. **Next Resilient Hartford Meeting:** Kye Cochran noted that the next regularly scheduled RH meeting is Wednesday, March 23rd at 5:00 p.m.
8. **Adjournment:** Kye Cochran thanked everyone for attending. The meeting adjourned at 6:16 p.m.