

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

Resilient Hartford Members Present: Dylan Kreis, Leah Mosenthal, Laura Simon and chair Kye Cochran.

Resilient Hartford Liaisons Members Present: Planning Commission Liaison John Reid and Selectboard Liaison Ally Tufenkjian.

Others Present: Earl Hatley.

Staff Present: Matt Osborn, Town Planner.

A remote Resilient Hartford Meeting was held on Wednesday, March 23rd. Chair Kye Cochran called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m. Kye read the script for remote meetings followed by a roll call.

1. **Resilient Hartford Minutes of February 23, 2022:** Kye Cochran asked if there are any changes to the draft minutes of February 23rd. There were none. Kye stated that the minutes are accepted as written by unanimous consent.
2. **Food Forest Update:** Kye Cochran reported that Permaculturalist Karen Ganey presented the Food Forest Design Plan to the Parks and Recreation Commission (PARC) at their March 10th meeting. She noted that the PARC was very supportive of the project and approved the Design Plan.

Kye reported that the Food Forest Steering Committee met on March 8th. The Steering Committee reviewed the tree and shrub list and agreed to schedule the spring planting on Saturday, April 30th from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Kye noted that the trees and shrubs are being ordered. She noted that the Steering Committee is looking for volunteers to water the plants throughout the summer.

Matt Osborn reported that he prepared a memo to Town Manager Tracy Yarlott-Davis requesting approval to apply for small grants with Town Manager's approval and not taking each application to the Selectboard. Matt noted that Town Manager approved the request and asked that applications be submitted to her and the Finance Director two weeks before the application deadline. Matt noted that there are enough RH funds for the spring planting, but RH will need to apply for grant funds for a fall planting. Matt noted that Marsha Autilio has put together a nice list of potential funding sources.

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

3. **Quechee Abenaki Garden:** Earl Hatley reported that the Quechee Lakes Landowners Association (QLLA) approved his request to establish an Abenaki Garden on the Quechee Green next to the Quechee Community Garden. He also reported that he received approval from the Town regarding compliance with flood and riparian regulations. The garden is intended to help Abenaki grow food for their people and provide seeds for future gardens. Earl stated that he will be visiting with Abenaki members in Quebec. He noted that the Quechee Green site has a water source. Unfortunately, Earl stated that the Community Garden doesn't have any rules about plants and he is concerned about cross pollination. Earl will use ancient traditional plants that he doesn't want to

be hybridized. He has been unable to speak directly to the Community Garden folks. As a result, he may have to work with QLLA to find another site and the garden may have to be delayed until 2023. He noted that QLLA is very supportive of the project and agreed to purchase a Land Acknowledgement sign. Laura Simon asked if he would consider moving the garden to Clifford Park. Earl responded that his first choice is to have the garden in Quechee. Kye Cochran offered her farm as an alternative location as well. Earl thanked Laura and Kye for the offer.

4. **2022 Fall Harvest Event:** Kye Cochran stated that Resilient Hartford needs to make a decision about whether to hold the event or not. She stated that she would like to hold the event. Laura Simon agreed and volunteered to help. Dylan Kreis agreed and stated that RH needs to make sure that we have the capacity to pull it off. He suggested partnering with other organizations and start small. Leah Mosenthal suggested piggy backing with another event such as the Block Party. Kye noted that the Block Party is in June. Kye suggested forming a Steering Committee to begin work planning the event. Kye, Laura and Dylan volunteered.
5. **Climate Action Plan Steering Committee:** John Reid reported that the Climate Action Plan (CAP) Steering Committee delivered an initial report to the Selectboard on recommendations to implement the CAP. The Selectboard requested a more complete report with specific priorities and steps. The Steering Committee is presently working on it. John noted that at the last Steering Committee meeting, Tom Kahl and Jon Bouton of the Conservation Commission came to discuss the Forest Management Plan for the Town Forest and the proposed Winter 2023 timber harvest. Laura Simon noted that it was a lengthy discussion and there was a difference of opinion on whether timber harvesting should be allowed on public lands.
6. **Election of Vice-Chair:** Matt Osborn noted that RH needs to elect a vice-chair. Dylan Kreis asked if anyone else is interested in serving. There were no volunteers. Dylan stated that he was willing to serve. Kye Cochran made nominated Dylan to serve as vice-chair. The motion was seconded by Laura Simon and unanimously approved.
7. **Resilient Hartford Opening:** Kye Cochran reported that there are currently two openings on Resilient Hartford. She encouraged the RH members to consider candidates for the openings. Laura Simon asked Earl Hatley if he would be willing to serve. Earl responded yes. Ally Tufenkjian explained the application process. She agreed to let RH members know when the Selectboard interview will take place.
8. **Announcements:**
 - a. Bugbee Senior Center Garden: Matt Osborn reported that Frederica Graham met with Mark Bradley of the Bugbee Senior Center (BSC) about starting a vegetable garden at BSC. Mark is working with the Natural Resources Class at the Hartford Area Career Technology Center who will be constructing raised beds for BSC. Mark is looking for a volunteer to help take care of the gardens. He also is looking for a post-lunch speaker to talk about the value of gardening and thought it also was an opportunity for seniors to learn about Resilient Hartford. Kye volunteered and agreed to contact Mark.
9. **Next Resilient Hartford Meeting:** Kye Cochran noted that the next regularly scheduled RH meeting is Wednesday, April 27th at 5:00 p.m.
10. **Adjournment:** Kye Cochran thanked everyone for attending. The meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.