

**Draft Minutes of the
Resilient Hartford Meeting
May 25, 2022**

Resilient Hartford Members Present: Marsha Autilio, Earl Hatley, Leah Mosenthal and Laura Simon.

Resilient Hartford Liaisons Members Present: Conservation Commission Liaison Jon Bouton, Energy Commission Liaison Lynn Bohi, Planning Commission Liaison John Reid and Selectboard Liaison Ally Tufenkjian.

Others Present: None.

Staff Present: Matt Osborn, Town Planner.

A hybrid Resilient Hartford Meeting was held on Wednesday, May 25th. Since neither chair Kyes Cochran and vice-chair Dylan Kreis were in attendance, Matt Osborn called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m. Matt read the script for hybrid meetings followed by a roll call.

- 1. Resilient Hartford Minutes of April 27, 2022:** Matt Osborn asked if there are any changes to the draft minutes of April 27th. There were none. Earl Hatley made a motion to approve the minutes of April 27th as written. The motion was seconded by Laura Simon and approved.
- 2. Climate Action Steering Team:** Laura Simon reported that the Climate Action Steering Team (CAST) sent letters to Town commissions and committees on recommendations in the Climate Action Plan that relate to each committee or commission. She stated that CAST determined that two CAP chapters that relate closely with the work of RH are Local Food and Agriculture and Health and Safety. Matt Osborn noted that between the two chapters, there are 8 strategies and 44 actions so RH needs to establish their priorities going forward. John Reid suggested that each Commission identify their top 3-4 strategies and actions for each chapter. Earl Hatley stated that as a new member, he isn't familiar with the responsibilities of RH. Laura noted that the Food Forest project relates well to the Local Food and Agriculture chapter. Matt added that the Hazard Mitigation Plan that is a responsibility of RH relates well to the Health and Safety chapter. Lynn Bohi noted that the Energy Commission is addressing building integrity and transportation. John Reid stated that two things come to mind regarding the CAP that RH should consider: get the word that the Town has a CAP and the work that Earl Hatley, Cat Buxton and Karen Ganey are doing to promote agriculture education. Matt suggested that each RH member review the strategies and actions and come up with what they think should be the priorities for RH to discuss at the 6/22 RH Meeting. RH agreed. Matt will scan and e-mail the CAP Local Food and Agriculture and Health and Safety chapters.
- 3. Food Forest Update:** Matt Osborn reported that the Phase 2 spring planting at the Clifford Park Food Forest on April 30th was a big success. Over 30 volunteers were present to plant the nine fruit trees and ten or so nut trees. Matt noted that Kye Cochran's son Duncan loaned RH a 300-gallon water tank that is stored in the barn at Clifford Park. Matt borrows a truck and storage tank from the Department of Public Works to deliver water to Clifford Park. Matt plans to refill the tank periodically throughout the summer and fall as needed. He noted that since there is currently a leak in the existing water tank, it will be replaced with another tank by Duncan Pogue. Laura Simon reported that there are several volunteers who signed up to water the trees and plants for the coming weeks, but volunteers are needed to sign up to water the trees and plants for the summer and fall.

Matt noted that RH has \$766 remaining in its Fiscal Year 2022 budget that needs to be expended by June 30th. He noted the following needs:

- Water tank
- Garden cart
- Garden hose
- Seed mix
- Guild plants
- Compost

Matt suggested meeting with the Food Forest Steering Committee to decide. RH agreed.

Matt reported that the Flood Regulations make it difficult to do the necessary soil building that needs to be done. He noted that the current requirement to take out as much material as we bring in is not sustainable. The alternative is to hire an engineer/hydrologist to prepare calculations to show that the soil building will not negatively affect the floodplain. Based on a discussion with a local engineer, she indicated that this would probably cost around \$5,000. Matt reported that he has spoken to Cat Buxton and she thinks there are foundations that would love this project and be willing to fund this undertaking. The next step will be to apply for funding. RH agreed that this is a good approach.

- 4. Quechee Abenaki Garden:** Earl Hatley reported that on May 17th, he met with Parks and Recreation Department Director Scott Hausler and Matt Osborn to ask permission to plant an Abenaki Garden at Clifford Park utilizing the unused horseshoe pit area. Scott agreed to the request. Earl stated noted that the existing soil is very poor. As a result, Earl will place black plastic over the grass to turn it into compost it before tilling. For the first year, Earl will plant cover crops for future compost as well as artichokes and sunflowers. He noted that the cover crop will provide nitrogen fixing to build the soil for next year's planting.
- 5. Resilient Hartford Opening:** Matt Osborn reported that there is still one opening on Resilient Hartford. He suggested that each member think about recruiting a good candidate to serve. Lynn Bohi suggested trying to recruit a new member at the Block Party. RH agreed.
- 6. Announcements:**
 - a. Hartford Community Coalition Block Party:** Matt Osborn reported that the annual Block Party is scheduled for Wednesday, June 15th from 5:00-8:00 p.m. Matt noted that at the request of chair Kye Cochran, he signed RH up for a booth to promote their work. He encouraged member to sign up for a ½ to hour shift to staff the table.
- 7. Next Resilient Hartford Meeting:** Matt Osborn noted that the next regularly scheduled RH meeting is Wednesday, June 22nd at 5:00 p.m.
- 8. Adjournment:** Matt Osborn thanked everyone for attending. Earl Hatley made a motion to adjourn. It was seconded by Laura Simon and approved. The meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m.