

**Approved Minutes of the
Resilient Hartford Meeting
June 22, 2022**

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

Resilient Hartford Liaisons Members Present: 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, June 22nd. Chair Kye Cochran called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m. Kye read the script for hybrid meetings followed by a roll call.

1. Resilient Hartford Minutes of May 25, 2022: Kye noted a correction. She asked if there are any other changes to the draft minutes of May 25th. There were none. Kye stated that the minutes of May 25th are approved with the noted correction by unanimous consent.

2. Food Forest Update:

- a. 6/3 Work Outing: Matt Osborn reported that Duncan Pogue replaced the leaking water tank with another water tank. Kye reported that several folks turned out for the June 3rd work outing. A conservation seed mix was applied to the Food Forest area. Volunteers watered trees. In addition, rocks were collected and placed on top of the plastic placed on the Abenaki Garden area east of the Food Forest in the former horseshoe pit area. Laura Simon reported that Karen Ganey will reach out to E.C. Browns about replacement of a few fruit trees that appear to have died.
- b. 7/6 Work Outing: Kye reported that the next work outing is scheduled for Wednesday, July 6th at 6:00 p.m. and will focus on the Abenaki Garden.
- c. Watering Plan and Schedule: Kye reported that she placed a clipboard on the barn wall for volunteers to note when they worked and what they did. Kye noted that she used a short hose for watering which was more efficient. Earl Hatley reported that he has been working on a design for gutters to go on the barn and connect to the tanks inside the barn.
- d. Abenaki Garden: Earl reported that black plastic was placed on the garden area to kill the grass and provide compost/mulch for the garden. He recently looked under the plastic and the grass is dying. A cover crop will be planted at the July 6th work outing.
- e. Budget/Fundraising: Matt reported that RH has about \$700 remaining in its Fiscal Year 2022. He noted that he will be making purchases this week and funds not expended by June 30th may be carried over to the next fiscal year since this is an ongoing project. The following are items that are needed for the Food Forest:
 - A bag or two of Pro Grow
 - Compost
 - Various seed mixes
 - Garden cart

- Shovel
- Rake
- Garden Fork

Dylan stated that he would like to see gutters installed on the roof that would connect to the water tanks inside the barn. He offered to look for used gutters.

- f. Flood Regulations: Matt reported that the State is currently updating the Model Flood Regulations and will be finished in the coming weeks. Matt noted that the Planning and Development Department will examine the Model Regulations and consider revising the Town's Flood Regulations. He is hopeful that the new Model Regulations will make it easier for projects like the Food Forest.
 - g. Japanese Knotweed: Kye reported that it was suggested to attempt to control the Japanese Knotweed adjacent to the Abenaki Garden. The idea is to cut it, place it on plastic, let it die and the use it as mulch. Matt noted that Conservation Commission Liaison Jon Bouton has experience managing Japanese Knotweed which is helpful. Matt reported that he asked Parks and Recreation Department Director Scott Hausler for permission to take this project on and Scott agreed.
3. **Resilient Hartford Opening**: Matt reported that an application was submitted to the Town Manager's Office from a resident that has impressive credentials. Matt is waiting to hear when the interview with the Selectboard will be scheduled.
 4. **Climate Action Steering Team**: Laura Simon noted that the Climate Action Steering Team (CAST) determined that two CAP chapters that relate closely with the work of RH are Local Food and Agriculture and Health and Safety. CAST is asking Town Commissions to prioritize items from the designated CAP chapters that they have an interest in working on. Laura reported that she spoke with Bugbee Senior Center Director Mark Bradley about the Resilient Seniors Project that RH worked on with Antioch University Professor Jason Rhoades. She noted that it is important to recognize the impact of climate change may have on vulnerable populations.

Kye stated that she is interested in working on developing neighborhood resilience groups. Laura responded that it is a good idea but is challenging.

Laura suggested the following priorities for RH:

1. Food Forest as a demonstration project to address food insecurity
2. Community building and networking
3. Hazard Mitigation Plan implementation

Matt read an e-mail that Marsha Autilio shared with RH about the need to focus on health and safety issues in addition to the Food Forest. She suggested conducting educational programs similar to what RH has done in the past. Matt agreed. He said that work relates to the Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) that RH has some responsibility regarding implementation. Dylan suggested building community through projects instead of workshops. He noted interest in a Food Forest for Ratcliffe Park. Matt responded that the plan was to take on the Clifford Park Food Forest and once it is well-established and successful and then expand to other Town parks. He noted that a food forest requires a community process, planning and coordination with the Parks and Recreation Department. Dylan noted that RH could have a supporting role in the Ratcliffe

Park Food Forest and as a liaison with the Parks and Recreation Department. Kye offered to talk to Ratcliffe Park area residents who might be interested in a food forest.

Kye suggested developing a list of possible workshop topics at the next RH meeting.

5. **Announcements:** There were no announcements.
6. **Next Resilient Hartford Meeting:** Kye Cochran noted that the next regularly scheduled RH meeting is Wednesday, July 27th at 5:00 p.m.
7. **Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.