

**Draft Minutes of the
Resilient Hartford Meeting
November 30, 2022**

Resilient Hartford Members Present: Marsha Autilio (2/23/23) Carolyn Hooper (10/17/25), Dylan Kreis (11/30/23), Laura Simon (11/30/23), and chair Kye Cochran (11/30/23).

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

Staff Present: Matt Osborn, Town Planner.

Others Present: None.

A hybrid Resilient Hartford Meeting was held on Wednesday, November 30th. Vice-chair Dylan Kreis called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m. Matt Osborn read the script for hybrid meetings followed by a roll call.

1. **November 12th Food Forest Year-end Work Outing:** Dylan reported that the November 12th work outing to close-up the Food Forest for winter was successful. Work included placing hardware cloth around the base of the trees to prevent rodent damage and fencing the remaining unfenced trees to protect the trees from deer. In addition, the water tank was drained. Dylan noted that there was a small group of volunteers but all of the work was completed.
2. **November 7th & November 14th Food Forest Brainstorming Sessions:** Carolyn Hooper reported that two Food Forest brainstorming sessions were held on November 7th and 14th. She stated that she had hoped that more people would have participated. Carolyn noted that Cat Buxton and Karen Ganey attended and expressed their hope that Resilient Hartford take a more active role in the management of the Food Forest. There was agreement that we need to focus on volunteer sustainability and engagement to create a wider circle of volunteers. Matt reported that the Food Forest Committee agreed that Apple Corps should apply for a Building a Local Economy (BALE) grant to assist in managing the Clifford Park Food Forest and other food generating projects. He stated that the application was submitted on November 20th and a decision will be made in the next few weeks. Matt noted that if awarded, an agreement between the Town and Apple Corps will have to be made. John suggested that we establish a group “Friends of the Clifford Park Food Forest” similar to what they did for the Strafford Food Forest. Marsha Autilio responded that the Strafford Food Forest is different since it is privately owned. She also noted that there is a Clifford Park Food Forest Steering Committee already and that committee should be in charge of managing the work of the Food Forest, with RH taking more of an oversight and support role.

Carolyn noted that one of the goals is to expand food forests to other parks. Dylan responded that it is important to have a successful and sustainable Food Forest at Clifford Park first before we start to expand to other parks.

3. **Food Forest & RH Budget:** Matt reported that during the last fiscal year (July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022), Resilient Hartford spent \$1,380 on the Clifford Park Food Forest. He showed a spreadsheet with all of the expenditures. Matt noted that an additional \$400 was carried over to the current fiscal year RH budget (July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023) giving a total of \$2,160. For the current fiscal year, \$422 have been expended on the Food Forest leaving \$1,738 remaining in the budget

leaving the Food Forest in decent shape. Matt noted that once RH has a more detailed plan before seeking additional funds. Dylan noted that Cat Buxton and Karen Ganey were initially paid consultants for the Food Forest and have donated their time since then. He suggested providing each with a \$100 token appreciation. Matt responded that isn't sure that Town policy allows it but will inquire.

4. **Quechee Abenaki Garden Update:** Matt reported that Earl Hatley has been successful establishing a second Abenaki Garden in Quechee and had several good turnouts for work outings. Matt noted that Earl is seeking 501(c)3 non-profit status so the Abenaki Garden can be eligible for grants. John Reid noted that Earl will have to develop an agreement with the Quechee Lakes Landowners Association. He doesn't see the need for an agreement with the Town. Matt agreed noting that the Clifford Park Abenaki Garden was incorporated into the Food Forest project and was approved by the Parks and Recreation Department.
5. **Wilder School Project:** Carolyn Hooper reported that in December she will be meeting with Doug Heavisides, Principal of the Wilder School about creating a food forest at the school property in Wilder Village. Carolyn thinks it would nice to have a food forest in the heart of a village and a food forest at the Wilder School would also benefit the School's students. She noted that it would have to be incorporated into the 2024 school budget so it wouldn't likely happen for a couple of years. Carolyn noted that Resilient Hartford doesn't have to take on a food forest at the Wilder School.
6. **Announcements:** There were no announcements.
7. **Next Resilient Hartford Meeting:** Dylan noted that the next regularly scheduled RH meeting is Wednesday, January 4th at 5:00 p.m. He suggested discussing next steps for the Food Forest. RH agreed.
8. **Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m.