

**Draft Minutes of the
Resilient Hartford Food Forest Committee Meeting
November 7, 2022**

Resilient Hartford Members Present: Kye Cochran, Earl Hatley, Carolyn Hooper and Laura Simon.

Others Present: Cat Buxton, Ruth Fleishman and Karen Ganey.

Staff Present: Matt Osborn, Town Planner.

A hybrid Resilient Hartford Meeting was held on Monday, November 7th in Room 2 of the Hartford Town Hall. The meeting was called to order at 5:22 p.m.

1. Food Forest Brainstorming for the Clifford Park Food Forest:

Cat- Is there a way to combine existing projects and needs, How we can leverage this opportunity to meet the needs of the Town and the upkeep of the growing number of sustainability projects.

Karen – noted the importance of connectivity to other community groups. Cat agreed and asked how this can project tie in with other local projects involving food security, climate change, public education?

Cat asked to identify other groups that Resilient Hartford could partner with on the Food Forest. The following are the responses:

- Apple Corps
- Climate Action Steering Team
- Conservation Commission
- Conservation District
- Hartford School District
- Solarize Hartford
- Hartford Garden Friends
- Upper Valley Seed Savers
- Tree Board

Cat noted how most of Apple Corps members migrated over the Clifford Park Food Forest.

There was discussion about expanding food forests to other parks. Matt responded that early on, we agreed that we need to focus on making the Clifford Park a success before expanding to other parks, some of which have floodplain issues. Cat noted that we have to work to address the flood regulations for the Clifford Park Food Forest to reach its full potential. Others agreed.

Projects: Clifford Park Food Forest, Quechee Abenaki Food Forest,

Interests: Climate Action Steering Team needs a coordinator or Community Engagement person.

Upcoming Possible Projects: Wilder School Food Forest. Carolyn has reached out to the Wilder School Principal who is interested, but will not occur until 2024.

Karen said that there is a need for staffing. Others agreed. Can we use the Apple Corps position to house such a role? Can Apple Corps get Town support? Cat noted that Apple Corps is not a 501(c)3 and is supported by their fiscal sponsor, the Ottawaquechee Natural Resources Conservation District. Karen wondered if we could get a position focused on the local food economy. Cat agreed and said we should try to reduce redundancy and help build one another up. If so, how would the Town support this, financially? And what would the relationship with the town be?

Matt noted that the Parks and Recreation Department was clear from the beginning that any Food Forest related work at Clifford Park has to be sustainable and not require the Parks and Recreation Department to have any maintenance responsibilities because they are so understaffed.

Matt noted that any grant applications must be approved by the Town Finance Director and the Town Manager.

We have a town Sustainability Coordinator (Dana Clawson) on the municipal side. However, we do not have a community sustainability coordinator.

- 2. Next Food Forest Committee Meeting:** The Committee agreed to continue the discussion next Monday, November 14th at 5:00 p.m.
- 3. Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 6:06 p.m.