

**Draft Minutes of the
Resilient Hartford Meeting
October 26, 2022**

Resilient Hartford Members Present: Earl Hatley (4/4/25), 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: Planning Commission Liaison John Reid and Energy Commission Liaison Lynn Bohi.

Staff Present: Matt Osborn, Town Planner.

Others Present: None.

A hybrid Resilient Hartford Meeting was held on Wednesday, October 26th. 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. She welcomed new RH member Carolyn Hooper. Matt Osborn noted that Vikki Chase also was appointed to RH and we now have a full commission.

1. **Resilient Hartford Minutes of September 28, 2022:** Kye asked if there are any changes to the draft minutes of September 28th. There were none. Kye stated that the minutes of September 28th are approved as written by unanimous consent.
2. **Wilder School Project:** Carolyn Hooper reported that the Wilder School renovation project left a large stark lawn that is devoid of landscaping and an expanded parking lot. She stated that the site is in need of more landscaping and thinks it would be a great site for a food forest and thinks it would benefit the School's students. She noted that she met with Doug Heavisides, Principal of the Wilder School. He welcomed the idea of a Food Forest. She noted that it would have to be incorporated into the 2024 budget year. Budget planning for 2024 starts in the spring of 2023. However, Doug noted that brainstorming ideas can happen now. Carolyn will meet with him again in December. The next step is working with the school district. Doug is very interested in partnering with the other Commissions such as the Conservation and Resilient Hartford. Carolyn noted that she will spearhead the effort. She is presenting to the Conservation Commission on November 7th. Matt also suggested discussing with the Tree Board. Carolyn noted that she will discuss with Vital Communities.
3. **Resilient Hartford Mission Statement:** Matt reported that the Climate Action Plan (CAP) was added to the mission statement under actions in addition to the Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP). He noted that this is another opportunity to make changes to the mission statement. Kye asked if RH members had any other changes. There were none. Laura Simon made a motion to approve the mission statement. It was seconded by Dylan Kreis and unanimously approved.
4. **Food Forest Tour with Parks and Recreation Commission:** Kye reported that on October 19th, Ruth Fleishman and Kye attended the Clifford Park Tour with the Parks and Recreation Commission (PARC) and Parks and Recreation Department Director (PARD) Scott Hausler. Kye said she was pleased to report that the PARC and PARD are very enthusiastic about the project.
5. **Food Forest Next Steps:** Kye reported that Karen Ganey sent out a Doodle Poll for a work outing to close-up the Food Forest for the winter. Matt noted that he will purchase additional fencing to protect the trees from deer as well as hardware cloth to protect the trees from rodents. Kye noted that Karen sent out a second Doodle Poll for a planning meeting to assess next steps for the Food Forest. Kye stated that the discussion will include the role of RH with the Food Forest. Dylan

stated that at some point, we will need to think about having a part-time paid Food Forest coordinator noting that Ruth Fleishman, Karen Ganey and Cat Buxton have put a lot of their time into the project.

6. **Food Forest Rain Gutter Proposal:** Matt reported that he is finishing up a Memorandum of Understanding between the Town and HP Roofing regarding donation of materials and labor for the rain gutter. Dylan offered to submit it to Jeff Acker when completed.
7. **Food Forest & RH Budget:** Matt reported that only \$129 has been expended out of the \$1,760 RH budget to date this fiscal year (7/1/22-6/30/23). He noted that he will purchase fencing and hardware cloth next week for the Food Forest work outing.
8. **Quechee Abenaki Garden Update:** Earl reported that there was a good turnout for the work outing on Saturday, October 22nd. They planted elderberry bushes, erected fences and laid down cardboard covered in wood chips. They also built a fire circle. He was pleased to see several Dartmouth College students participate. One more fall workday is needed. Earl noted that he has applied for two grants and is seeking 501(c)3 non-profit status.
9. **Solarize Hartford:** Laura reported that the Climate Action Steering Team is restarting the Solarize Hartford program. They are currently in the research phase and coordinating with Vital Communities. She noted that they are hoping to recruit others and help with promotion.
10. **Window Dressers:** Laura reported that the Energy Commission (HEC) is holding a Window Dressers event November 4-9 to construct window inserts to help reduce heat loss. There are 31 houses enrolled and they will build 188 inserts. HEC is looking for volunteers. Other Upper Valley communities are holding Window Dresser events as well this fall.
11. **Climate Resilient Communities:** Laura reported that the Vermont Council on Rural Development (VCRD) has developed a Climate Resilient Communities Program. VCRD selects 3-5 communities each year to participate in the program. The deadline for applications is November 7th. Laura noted that since the deadline is approaching and staff is out straight, it may be better to apply next year. Matt agreed stating that would provide more time to assess what is involved and whether it makes sense for the Town to participate. RH agreed.
12. **Announcements:**
 - a. Upper Valley Haven Turkey Giveaway: Dylan reported that on November 19th, the Haven is sponsoring an Annual Turkey Giveaway and is looking for volunteers to help out.
13. **Next Resilient Hartford Meeting:** Kye Cochran noted that the next regularly scheduled RH meeting is Wednesday, November 30th at 5:00 p.m.
14. **Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 6:16 p.m.