

**Draft Minutes of the
Resilient Hartford Meeting
July 27, 2022**

Resilient Hartford Members Present: Marsha Autilio, Earl Hatley, Leah Mosenthal, Laura Simon and vice-chair Dylan Kreis.

Resilient Hartford Liaisons Members Present: Energy Commission Liaison Lynn Bohi and Selectboard Liaison Ally Tufenkjian.

Others Present: None.

Staff Present: Matt Osborn, Town Planner.

A hybrid Resilient Hartford Meeting was held on Wednesday, July 27th. Vice-chair Dylan Kreis called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. Dylan read the script for hybrid meetings followed by a roll call.

1. **Resilient Hartford Minutes of June 22, 2022:** Dylan asked if there are any changes to the draft minutes of June 22nd. There were none. Dylan stated that the minutes of June 22nd are approved as written by unanimous consent.
2. **Hartford Hazard Mitigation Plan:** Laura Simon reported that she met with Earl Hatley after reviewing the Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) to see where the HMP intersects with RH. Earl acknowledged that since he is a new RH member, he isn't aware of the history of the HMP and its relationship with RH. He stated that he thinks RH relates more toward the Climate Action Plan than the HMP. Dylan responded that a non-profit organization, Community Resilient Organizations Vermont (CRO Vermont) was founded by Vermont planner Peg Elmer Hough as a byproduct of Tropical Storm Irene in order to help communities become more resilient and to build community in the process. Dylan stated that Hartford was one of six original CRO's in Vermont that were established in 2015. CRO Hartford later changed its name to Resilient Hartford, a Community Resilient Organization. Dylan noted that RH was formed to help implement the HMP. The focus was on public awareness that resulted in resilient week events in 2017 and 2018 and then RH transitioned to regular resilience workshops. Prior to Covid, RH sponsored Potato Fest and during Covid transitioned to the Food Forest.

Matt noted that in 2008, Hartford developed a HMP as required by Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). It was a very modest 8-page plan. In 2013, Peg Elmer Hough received a FEMA grant to develop a pilot project for a more comprehensive HMP with an extensive public process. Hartford was selected as an example of a large town and Tunbridge was selected as an example of a small town for the pilot project. The end-product was a much more detailed and comprehensive HMP in 2014 that had a robust public process. Since the HMP must be updated every five years, the Town worked on an update of the 2014 HMP and received a FEMA grant. The Town hired the Two Rivers-Ottawquechee Regional Commission and the current HMP was adopted by the Hartford Selectboard on February 1, 2021. Matt noted that RH was an active participant in the update.

Laura noted that the food forest project is another effective way of reaching the public about resilience and building community. Marsha Autilio agreed. As for next steps, Dylan suggested discussing RH's mission. RH agreed and requested to put this item on the 8/24 RH agenda.

3. Food Forest Update:

- a. Abenaki Garden 7/6 & 7/19 Work Outings: Earl reported that two work outings were held at the Food Forest on July 6th and July 19th that focused on planting cover crops in the Abenaki garden. Earl stated that the cover crops are coming in very well in the tilled areas compared to the untilled areas. He also noted that it is nice to see plums growing on trees. He stated that buckets have been placed under the eaves in anticipation of tomorrow's expected rain and can help supplement water. RH will have to ensure that the buckets are removed any time there is a flood warning. Laura noted that one fruit tree

died and was replaced by E.C. Browns. It will be planted once it cools down. Earl reported that this Friday, the Food Forest will be included in an agroforestry tour of the Upper Valley. Earl noted that the next work outing will be in early August although a specific date has not been confirmed.

- c. Watering Plan and Schedule: Earl reported that regular watering has been occurring and everything looks lush as a result. Matt reported that he will be delivering water on Friday since the water tank is down to 25 gallons.
 - d. Rain Gutter Proposal: Dylan reported that he sent out the gutter proposal to RH a couple of weeks ago. The idea is to capture rain in gutters on the north side of the barn roof and direct water to water tanks inside the barn with an overflow devise to release excess water. By doing so, we will be complying with the Flood Regulations. Dillon noted that he has spoken with Jeff Acker at HP Roofing who is willing to donate and install the gutter system. Matt reported that Parks and Recreation Department (PARD) Director Scott Hausler supports the plan. Scott requested that the tanks be stored in the rear of the barn to allow PARD to move items that are stored in the barn. Dillon agreed to fine-tune the proposal and Matt agreed to develop an agreement with HP Roofing. Earl responded that this is exciting news and will provide a dependable source of water for the Food Forest and Abenaki Garden. RH agreed.
 - e. Budget/Fundraising: Matt reported that he made several purchases for the Food Forest prior to the June 30th end of the fiscal year. Planning and Development requested that about \$400 be carried over to the current fiscal year to purchase a garden cart or water tank. Matt noted that there is \$1,760 in the current fiscal year budget for RH. Dylan noted that Marsha Autilio developed a list of potential grants for the Food Forest. Matt noted that Cat Buxton has offered assistance to apply for grants once a clear project has been defined.
 - f. Flood Regulations: Matt reported that the State is currently updating the Model Flood Regulations and will be released soon. 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 comply. If not, the Town may need to hire an engineer to do an analysis on how the Food Forest will impact the flood storage capacity.
4. **Resilient Hartford Opening**: Dylan reported that there is still an opening on RH. Matt noted that an applicant withdrew her application after another commitment came up. Dylan suggested that RH members think about finding a good candidate.
 5. **Climate Action Steering Team**: Laura Simon reported that CAST is looking at how best to implement the Climate Action Plan. Laura noted that CAST is preparing for an August 16th presentation to the Selectboard about implementing the CAP.
 6. **Announcements**:
 - a. Possible Solar Arrays on School District Property: Lynn Bohi reported that the Hartford Energy Commission is working on developing possible solar arrays on a vacant School District parcel on Christian Street.
 7. **Next Resilient Hartford Meeting**: Dylan noted that the next regularly scheduled RH meeting is Wednesday, August 24th at 5:00 p.m.
 8. **Adjournment**: The meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m.