

**Draft Minutes of the
Resilient Hartford Meeting
August 24, 2022**

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

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, August 24th. 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. **Resilient Hartford Minutes of July 27, 2022:** Dylan asked if there are any changes to the draft minutes of July 27th. There were none. Dylan stated that the minutes of July 22nd are approved as written by unanimous consent.
2. **Resilient Hartford Mission Statement:** Dylan reported that the mission statement was last updated in 2020. Since there have been several new RH members since then, it makes sense to review it again. Dylan noted that last year, the Climate Action Plan was adopted by the Selectboard. He suggested adding it to the third bullet under actions, “Utilize the Hazard Mitigation Plan and the Climate Action Plan for concrete actions/projects.” Laura Simon suggested adding Hartford before the Hazard Mitigation Plan and the Climate Action Plan. RH agreed. Dylan asked if the Food Forest should be added to the mission statement. It was agreed that it was unnecessary. Dylan asked if there were any other changes. There were none. Matt suggested discussing the mission statement again at next month’s meeting to have another chance to discuss and get input from Kye and Marsha. RH agreed.
3. **Food Forest Update:**
 - a. 8/19 Work Outing: Earl Hatley reported that the 8/19 work outing went well and was productive. He stated that the Abenaki Garden cover crop was tilled in to add organic matter to the soil. In addition, oats and field peas were planted.
 - b. Next Work Outing: Matt reported that the next work outing is scheduled for Friday, 9/16 from 4-6 p.m. with a potluck following. Dylan volunteered to bring a table. Matt noted the need to ensure a sustainable volunteer base and that it will take time to see visible results of the Food Forest as it grows and matures. Dylan suggested discussing volunteer recruitment at an upcoming meeting.
 - c. Watering Plan and Schedule: Matt noted that it has been a dry summer and that more watering had to be done. There was discussion about the need for more watering volunteers to help out. Matt reported that he delivered water at the 8/19 work outing and that we shouldn’t need to water as much as summer gives way to fall.
 - d. Rain Gutter Proposal: Matt reported that Dylan submitted a revised gutter proposal and that Parks and Recreation Department Director Scott Hausler approved it. The Town will develop

a written agreement with HP Roofing who agreed to donate materials and their time for the project. Matt noted that the Parks and Recreation Department crew will move stored materials located in the barn so the water tank can be located in the southeast corner of the building.

- e. Budget/Fundraising: Matt reported that he made additional purchases for the Food Forest since the beginning of the fiscal year (July 1st) totaling \$129 to date leaving \$1,631 remaining in the RH budget this fiscal year. Matt noted that there is a New England Grassroots Environmental Fund grant application currently open and he is trying to determine if we are ready to apply this round. Dylan suggested using grant funds to purchase another water tank and possibly a pump.
 - f. Flood Regulations: Matt reported that the State released the updated Model Flood Regulations. 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.
 - g. Food Forest Wish List: Dylan asked about the Food Forest Wish List. Matt responded that he is hopeful of getting a donated garden cart or discount from Gardners Supply. Earl suggested a drip line from the water tank to the trees and Abenaki Garden. Laura agreed noting that we need to make it easier to water the trees and plants. Dylan responded that we need to figure a way to work that out. As an alternative, he suggested a gas-powered pump. Laura agreed to look at grant funding options. John Reid suggested ARPA funds. Ally Tufenkjian responded that the Selectboard are currently conducting an ARPA survey of what to do with ARPA funds coming to the Town. She noted that the deadline for responses is September 6th. Ally suggested that the RH chair or vice-chair make a specific request to the Selectboard. Dylan agreed to research the cost of a pump and tank.
- 4. Resilient Hartford Opening:** Dylan noted that Kye was going to talk to one of the Ratcliffe Park neighbors interested in developing a Food Forest in Ratcliffe Park to see if one of them might be interested in serving on RH. Laura suggested asking Ruth Fleishman if she is interested in serving. Matt replied that Ruth is pretty busy serving as the Food Forest leader.
- 5. Announcements:**
- a. Town Website: Matt reported that the Town website was updated recently and there are some problems that need to be fixed. He stated that staff is in the process of reviewing the web pages and making corrections noting that it will take time. He said it is an opportunity to review what is on the RH webpage and decide what we want on it. Lynn Bohi reported that the Climate Action Plan is not on the website. Ally Tufenkjian stated that she will inform the Town Manager about it. Laura asked if Matt could provide a link to the RH webpage. He agreed.
- 7. Next Resilient Hartford Meeting:** Dylan noted that the next regularly scheduled RH meeting is Wednesday, September 28th at 5:00 p.m.
- 8. Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 6:16 p.m.