

**Draft Minutes of the
Resilient Hartford Meeting
January 25, 2023**

Resilient Hartford Members Present: Earl Hatley (4/4/25), Carolyn Hooper (10/17/25), 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: Ruth Fleishman.

A hybrid Resilient Hartford Meeting was held on Wednesday, November 30th. Chair Kye Cochran called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m. She read the script for hybrid meetings followed by a roll call.

1. **Resilient Hartford Minutes of October 26, 2022 and November 30, 2022:** Kye asked if there are any changes to the draft minutes of October 26th and November 30th. There were none. Kye stated that the minutes are accepted as written by unanimous consent.
2. **Resilient Hartford Openings & Meeting Time:** Matt reported that there is currently one opening on RH and a second opening will occur on February 24th when Marsha steps down. He noted that Dylan started a new job recently and is unable to make 5:00 p.m. meetings. Matt stated that he would hate to lose Dylan as a member. RH agreed. He noted that if we changed the meeting time to Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m., Dylan would be able to attend. RH agreed to change the meeting time to 6:30 p.m. on Wednesdays beginning with the February 22nd meeting.
3. **Food Forest Review of 2022:** Kye reported that additional fruit and nut trees were planted in 2022 and a team of volunteers watered the trees and guilds during dry periods over the summer and fall. She added that Dylan reached out to HP Roofing and they agreed to donate gutters and install them at the Clifford Park Barn to serve as a more dependable water source. Ruth Fleishman noted that the Abenaki Garden was tilled and cover crops planted. She added that dead fruit trees were replaced, a mulch plot was established and the trees were fenced and trunks protected.
4. **Food Forest Planning For 2023:** Earl noted that a more reliable water source is needed since hauling water by hand is very labor-intensive. Matt responded that in the fall, Dylan Kreis had suggested purchasing a basic pump to pump water from the water tanks inside the barn to the Food Forest trees and guilds as well as the Abenaki Garden. He noted that the idea was well-received by RH. The estimated cost of the pump is between \$400-\$500. Matt noted that he prepared a written agreement with HP Roofing and Dylan would present it to HP Roofing. Matt agreed to follow-up with Dylan.

Ruth suggested holding a meeting with the larger Food Forest group in the next month or so to get input on 2023 work. RH agreed.

5. **Food Forest Organizer:** Ruth reported that she served as the Food Forest Organizer for 2022 and thought it was time for someone else to serve in that role. She suggested discussing this at the larger Food Forest group meeting. Kye reported that a meeting with Apple Corps is being planned to figure out what they will be working on this year. She noted that Apple Corps received a \$1,400 BALE grant to hire a coordinator for the Clifford Park Food Forest and other local food projects.

Kye stated that they applied for a \$5,000 grant but due to competition, they received \$1,400. Kye noted that Apple Corps will apply for another grant to make up the difference.

6. **Food Forest & RH Budget/Fundraising:** 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. Matt noted that an additional \$400 was carried over to the current fiscal year RH budget (July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023) giving RH a total of \$2,160 to spend by June 30th. For the current fiscal year, \$422 has been expended leaving \$1,738 remaining in the budget leaving the Food Forest in good financial shape. Matt noted that once RH has a more detailed plan of the next steps, we can seek grant funding.
7. **Flood Regulations:** Matt reported that last year the State released an 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. Matt plans to reach out to the State Floodplain Manager about it. He is hopeful that the new Model Regulations will make it easier for projects like the Food Forest to 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. This would likely require a grant to pay for the engineer. Ruth noted that Cat Buxton offered her assistance with the process.
8. **Quechee Abenaki Garden Update:** Earl reported that he obtained Vermont non-profit status working through Building a Local Economy (BALE) as their fiscal agent. Earl noted that they established a Board and have been fundraising and applying for grants. To date, the project has raised \$17,800. Their goal was \$16,300 for materials alone. They plan to install a building with gutters and rain barrels and fencing. He stated that it will be a “Three Sisters Garden” (corn, beans and squash). Earl noted that they are currently working on an agreement with the Quechee Lakes Landowners Association (QLLA).
9. **Wilder School Project:** Carolyn Hooper reported that last month, she met with Doug Heavisides, Principal of the Wilder School about creating a food forest at the school property in Wilder Village. Carolyn noted that Doug is enthusiastic about the project and likes the idea of reducing the amount of mowing on the site. He would like to start small with a few fruit trees and berry bushes. Doug knows of some possible funding sources. The next step is to look at the possible layout. Carolyn noted that she discussed a possible vegetable garden at the site as well. Ruth noted that it can be challenging for a school to maintain a vegetable garden over the summer.

10. Announcements:

- a. Energize Upper Valley: Laura reported that on April 1st, there will be Energize Upper Valley event at the Listen Center from 11-3.
- b. Climate Migration Conference: Matt reported that on May 16th & 17th, Antioch University New England is sponsoring a climate migration conference in Keene, New Hampshire.
- c. Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont (NOFA-VT) Conference: Kye reported that NOFA-VT is holding their annual winter conference on February 18th & 19th in Richmond.

10. **Next Resilient Hartford Meeting:** Kye noted that the next regularly scheduled RH meeting is Wednesday, February 22nd at 6:30 p.m.

11. **Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.