

**Approved Meeting Notes of the
Resilient Hartford Meeting
February 28, 2024**

Resilient Hartford Members Present: Earl Hatley (4/4/25) and Kyle Katz (10/30/26).

Resilient Hartford Liaison Members Present: Selectboard Liaison Ally Tufenkjian.

Staff Present: Matt Osborn, Town Planner.

Others Present: Rachel Kent of Apple Corps.

A hybrid Resilient Hartford Meeting was held on Wednesday, February 28th. The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. Matt Osborn announced that Dylan Kreis contacted him to say he is unable to attend the meeting due to a work conflict. He noted that there is not a quorum but suggested holding the meeting to provide updates. Everyone agreed.

Matt reported that this will be the last meeting for Selectboard liaison Ally Tufenkjian since she is not seeking re-election. Matt acknowledged her regular attendance at RH meetings. Ally complimented RH members for their service and dedication. She stated that it has been an honor to serve the Town and that she will be supporting RH in a different capacity.

1. **Public Comments:** There were no public comments.
2. **December 5th Food Forest Community Discussion Update:** Rachel Kent reported that the result of the meeting was to focus on improving the riparian buffer. She reported that she left a comment box at the West Hartford Library following the December 5th community discussion. She received one response at the Library. She also has heard from several existing volunteers. She hopes to get information on the Food Forest posted on the West Hartford List Serv.
3. **Food Forest Tree Species:** Earl Hatley reported that once the snow melts, he will be visiting Clifford Park with two tree experts to help with tree recommendations for Clifford Park including the riparian area. Kyle Katz suggested monitoring invasive plants in the riparian area.
4. **Clifford Park Abenaki Garden:** Earl reported that due to the risk of flooding, we need to put the Three Sisters Garden on hold and instead transition to a perennial garden with sun chokes and ground cherries and monitor the site. In the meantime, Earl recommends focusing on building the soil.
5. **Quechee Abenaki Garden:** Earl reported that they hope to start planting as soon as they can this spring with sun chokes, ground cherries and tobacco. They will continue installing fencing and bring in mulch and wood chips. He stated that workdays are being planned. A planting ceremony will be scheduled sometime around Memorial Day. Earl stated that they continue to raise funds. The main focus is on educational signs. Matt noted that we should see what they come up with for consideration at Clifford Park. Earl stated that there will be a land acknowledgement sign erected at the Quechee Club and the Abenaki Garden. They hope to hire a part-time gardener. Earl added that they received USDA funding to pump water from the marsh.
6. **Fruit and Nut Tree Grant:** Matt reported that the Town submitted a grant application to the Vermont Garden Network Fruit and Nut Tree Grant Program. Matt thanked Rachel Kent for preparing the application. Matt prepared a memo to the Town Manager and Finance Director who

authorized submittal of the grant application. Matt stated that we should be receiving word about the grant in the next week.

7. **RH Openings:** Matt reported that RH member Caralyn Hooper stepped down from RH due to personal reasons. RH now has two openings.

8. **Announcements:**

- a. Community Resilience Building: Matt reported that the Selectboard approved a request for the Town to participate in the Nature Conservancy Community Resilience Building Program. Matt noted that the City of Lebanon is already participating in the Program.
- b. Environmental Stewardship Event: Matt reported that Earl Hatley will be representing RH at the Hartford Conservation Commission Environmental Stewardship Mix & Mingle event at the Bugbee Senior Center tomorrow evening.

9. **Next RH Meeting:** Matt noted that the next RH meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 27th.

10. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 6:06 p.m.

11. **Date RH Member Terms Expire:** Earl Hatley (4/4/25), Kyle Katz (10/30/26), Michaela Lavelle (6/27/26), Laura Simon (1/8/27) and chair Dylan Kreis (1/8/27).