

Resilient Hartford Meeting
Approved Minutes of April 23, 2024

Resilient Hartford Members Present: Earl Hatley (4/4/25), Kyle Katz (10/30/26), Michaela Lavelle (6/27/26) and chair Dylan Kreis (1/8/27).

Resilient Hartford Liaison Members Present: None.

Staff Present: Matt Osborn, Town Planner.

Others Present: None.

A hybrid Resilient Hartford Meeting was held on Tuesday, April 23rd. Dylan Kreis called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. Kyle Katz read the hybrid meeting script.

1. **RH Meeting Minutes:** Dylan asked if there are any changes or corrections regarding the minutes of the 3/27 RH Meeting. Kyle noted a correction. Being no other changes, Dylan stated that the minutes are accepted with the noted correction.
2. **Public Comments:** There were no public comments.
3. **Fruit and Nut Tree Grant:** Matt reported that the Town was awarded \$990.00 from the Vermont Garden Network Fruit through the Vermont Fruit and Nut Tree Grant Program. He noted that RH should spend Fiscal Year 2024 RH funds first since any RH funds that are unspent by June 30th will be returned to the Town General Fund. Starting July 1st, the 2025 Fiscal Year budget will begin with dedicated funds for RH.
4. **Food Forest Plans for 2024:** Earl Hatley reported that a Food Forest Working Group meeting was held on Monday, April 15th. He read from the following from the meeting notes:
 - a. **Season Work Party Plan:** The Group agreed to hold one weekend and one weekday work session per month, every third Sunday and every fourth Tuesday. Begin with Sunday, May 19th 2-5 p.m. and Tuesday, May 28th 4-7 p.m. Matt noted that this is the same time as the regular RH Meeting. It was agreed to hold the 5/28 RH meeting at Clifford Park to allow the workday. West Hartford Farmers' Market will be running this summer every Tuesday 3:30-6:30 p.m., starting on June 1st. Request to host a tour of the Food Forest tentatively on July 9th.
 - b. **Growing Plan:**
 - Cover crop islands: continue to build soil by cover crop plantings and chop and drop method for future tree plantings.
 - In-between space: focus on tilling crabgrass repeatedly, establish diversified, pollinator friendly meadow seeded in the fall. Once established, the meadow will likely need to be mowed occasionally to keep it from being overgrown with poplars, willows...
 - Existing fruit trees: continue care; rent woodchipper and create mulch from on-site wood.
 - Riparian buffer: imitate nature and overplant, prioritize Indigenous, edible plants.
 - Nursery: maintain for saplings.
 - Blueberry patch: convert into nursery for native perennials that will then be planted.
 - Plant the Abenaki garden area with perennials or self-seeding annuals - comfrey, sunchokes, ground cherries...
 - *Earl, Emily, and John to walk the site on 4/29 and determine which species we want to welcome in, particularly for the meadow and the riparian buffer.

Watering System:

- We discussed whether or not a pump watering system was needed, and the verdict was yes, especially to establish trees in the riparian buffer and the perennial and tree nursery.
- Option to pump from the roof collection tank or from the river (especially with riparian species) – either way, we need long hoses.
- Earl has been looking into pump options for the Quechee Garden and will send specs to group (including options for mobile and solar-powered pumps).

Signage:

- Need for simple signage soon!
 1. QR code linking to website so people know what's going on and what stage of the project we're in.
 2. Additionally, we need to have some written explanation (real signs) independent of the QR code – there's lots of space at the barn where we could display it.
- Next iteration: add a species list to signage with Abenaki names.

Budget:

- RH budget - \$1,600.
 1. Cover cost of pumps and hoses. Earl estimated \$650 for the pump and hoses.
 2. Use whatever remains to purchase seed for meadow.
 3. Rent or borrow a woodchipper.
- VT Fruit & Nut Tree Grant - \$990.
 1. Trees, cover crops for site, tree fencing and other supplies.
- Upper Valley Resilience Network Funds - up to \$1000.
 1. Access to money to pay Indigenous consultants and signage.

5. **Quechee Abenaki Garden:** Earl reported that Quechee Lakes Landowner's Association (QLLA) is very supportive of the effort and is helping with drilling holes for fenceposts. The garden size is 49' x 49'. He noted that the soil conditions are excellent. A workday is planned for 4/28 from 10-2 and 5/18. They will continue installing fencing. Planting is expected by the end of May with sun chokes, ground cherries and tobacco. A planting ceremony will be scheduled sometime around Memorial Day with corn, beans and squash. Earl noted that they are working on a beaver management to maintain the water level that is acceptable to QLLA. To date, the Quechee Abenaki Garden Project has raised over \$12,000 and they hope to hire a garden manager.
6. **RH Openings:** Dylan noted that RH still has two openings. RH agreed to promote the openings at the Hartford Community Coalition Block Party on June 19th. Matt will sign up for a booth at the Block Party. Michaela volunteered to make a poster for the event. Kyle suggested posting on the Food Forest List Serv about the openings. RH agreed.
7. **Announcements:**
 - a. Hartford Resilience Hub: Michaela reported that she is working with Rachel Kent on the Hartford Resilient Hub.
8. **Next RH Meeting:** Dylan noted that the next RH meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 28th at 5:00 p.m. at Clifford Park and will be combined with the 4-7 p.m. Food Forest workday.
9. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 6:06 p.m.
10. **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).