

**Resilient Hartford Meeting
Approved Minutes of September 24, 2024**

Resilient Hartford Members Present: Earl Hatley (4/4/25), Kyle Katz (10/30/26), Sally Mansur (9/16/27) Michaela Lavelle (6/27/26) and Laura Simon (1/8/27).

Staff Present: Matt Osborn, Town Planner.

Others Present: Rachel Kent.

A Resilient Hartford Meeting was held on Tuesday, September 24th in Room 312 of the Hartford Town Hall. The meeting was called to order at 5:05 p.m. Matt Osborn welcomed Sally Mansur who was appointed to Resilient Hartford last Tuesday by the Selectboard. Introductions followed.

- 1. Public Comments:** There were no public comments.
- 2. RH Minutes of June 25, 2024:** Kyle asked if there are any changes to the draft minutes of 6/25 RH meeting. Being none, Earl Hatley made a motion to approve the minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Michaela Lavelle and unanimously approved.
- 3. RH Update to the Selectboard:** Matt reported that on July 23rd, Kyle gave an update on RH's work to the Selectboard. He stated that Kyle did a great job. Kyle thought it went well.
- 4. Election of Officers:** Matt noted that since Dylan Kreis stepped down in late June, we have been without a chair. Michaela Lavelle suggested that Kyle serve as chair. Others agreed. Michaela nominated Kyle as chair. The motion was seconded by Laura Simon and unanimously approved. Laura nominated Earl as vice-chair. The motion was seconded by Michaela and unanimously approved.
- 5. Resilient Hartford Budget:** Matt went through the current RH budget from the Town General Fund noting that the fiscal year runs from July 1st to June 30th.

Resilient Hartford Fiscal Year 2024/2025 Approved Budget (July 1, 2024- June 30, 2025)

• Travel & Meetings	\$150
• Advertising	\$200
• Contracted Services/Speaker Stipend	\$800
• <u>Materials & Supplies</u>	<u>\$610</u>
Total	\$1,760

Matt noted that during the past fiscal year, RH spent all but \$243 of the budget on the Food Forest. It included tools, soil mix, a water pump and a canopy. Matt noted that the 2024 Fruit and Nut Tree grant will help supplement the RH budget. He stated that it will be a tight budget year so any increase would have to be well-justified. He suggested level funding. Laura made a motion for level funding for RH FY 2025/2026. The motion was seconded by Michaela and approved unanimously.

- 6. Vermont Fruit and Nut Tree Grant:** Rachel reported that we will use some of the grant funds for the replacement plum tree and will ask for a grant extension while we hash out the future of the Food Forest. Matt reported that he purchased two plum trees from EC Brown's Nursery after Perfect Circle Farm was sold out. Earl agreed that we should plant replacement plum trees.

7. **Clifford Park Food Forest Plans for 2025:** Laura stated that with climate change and the likelihood of increased flooding as well as the poor soil conditions, we shouldn't be planting any more fruit and nut trees at Clifford Park. Instead, we should consider another site. Matt noted that a lot of time and effort have gone into the Clifford Park Food Forest and he cautioned about walking away from the site as a Food Forest. He added that this needs to be a larger group decision. He suggested holding a community discussion at the West Hartford Library this fall. Others agreed. Kyle noted that he prefers a blended approach.
8. **Clifford Park Riparian Area Planning:** Matt noted that we will have to work with the Parks and Recreation Department as well as the Parks and Recreation Commission and possibly the Tree Board on the Clifford Park riparian area. He suggested setting up a site visit with Parks and Recreation Department Director Scott Hausler, Earl and himself and then seeing if we need to develop a subcommittee with representatives from each group as a way to move forward on the subject. RH agreed.
9. **Quechee Abenaki Garden:** Earl reported that the first year of the one-acre Abenaki Garden has been a success. The fencing was completed. They harvested corn and saved much of the seed, harvested beans which are drying and the squash is doing very well. The sunchoke are doing well too. The cranberry beans look beautiful and they are looking at another variety of squash. Earl noted that some of the plants have hybridized so he will have to figure that out. He reported that he met with the Upper Valley Seed Savers noting that "seeds first and food later". The next step is developing a website. He also reported that he is working with the Quechee Lakes Manager on items that were previously rejected such as a food forest.
10. **Community Resilience Building in Hartford:** Matt reported that there is a committee meeting tomorrow to discuss the next steps to host a community-based workshop in November. Kyle noted that he serves on the committee representing RH.
11. **RH Openings:** Kyle noted that there are still two openings on RH now. Rachel noted that she would join RH if the bylaws were changed to allow non-residents to serve. Michaela wasn't sure that the Selectboard would approve it. Kyle said we should discuss at next month's RH meeting.
12. **Announcements:**
 - a. Hartford Community Coalition Block Party: Matt noted that the Block Party was rescheduled to Friday, October 18th at 3:30 p.m. RH will have a booth to promote their work. Michaela will prepare a flyer for RH.
 - b. Food Forest Workday: Kyle noted that the next workday is scheduled for Friday, September 27th from 4-7 p.m.
13. **Next RH Meeting:** Kyle noted that the next RH meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 22nd.
14. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 6:06 p.m.
15. **Date RH Member Terms Expire:** Earl Hatley (4/4/25), Michaela Lavelle (6/27/26), Sally Mansur (9/16/27) Laura Simon (1/8/27) and chair Kyle Katz (10/30/26).