

Resilient Hartford Meeting
Approved Minutes of October 22, 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: None.

A Resilient Hartford Meeting was held on Tuesday, October 22nd in Room 312 of the Hartford Town Hall. Kyle Katz called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m. and read the hybrid meeting script. Introductions followed.

1. **Public Comments:** There were no public comments.
2. **RH Minutes of September 24, 2024:** Kyle asked if there are any changes to the draft minutes of 9/24 RH meeting. Being none, Earl Hatley made a motion to approve the minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Sally Mansur and unanimously approved.
3. **Review of 9/27 & 10/11 Workdays:** Kyle reported that on September 27th, two plum trees, three Pagoda Dogwood trees and guilds were planted. On 10/11, the pollinator garden was planted. Both workdays had about eight participants. Earl noted that both workdays were productive. He suggested planting sweet grass in the Abenaki Garden.
4. **Vermont Fruit and Nut Tree Grant:** Matt reported that he submitted the final report for the grant closeout and requested an extension. He noted that only \$192.25 out of the \$990.37 was expended due to the lack of a clear plan for the Food Forest going forward. He reported that we should hear back in the next day or two about the decision to allow an extension or not. If an extension is not given, we will have to return \$798.12 to the grant program.
5. **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. Matt reported that on Friday, 10/25 at 10:30 a.m., Earl and Matt will be meeting on site visit with Parks and Recreation Department Director Scott Hausler to talk about ways to enhance the riparian buffer while still meeting Parks and Recreation Department goals for the property.
6. **Food Forest Fall Maintenance:** Matt reported that Rachel is unable to attend the meeting and had a few questions. She asked if there is a watering plan for new trees. Matt noted that it has been a dry fall and there isn't any significant rain in the forecast. Sally, Earl and Laura agreed to meet tomorrow at 2:00 p.m. to water the new trees and guild plantings.
7. **Food Forest Signage:** Matt reported that Rachel asked about next steps for educational signage for the Food Forest. Matt suggested erecting a kiosk similar to the kiosk design at the southern end of the Hazen Trail. Sally pulled up a photo of it and shared with the group. RH agreed it was a good design. Matt noted that it was built by the Conservation Commission 15 years ago. If we build it ourselves, the cost would be much lower. Michaela suggested asking for financial assistance from the Parks and Recreation Department. Matt noted that the signage must conform with the Hartford Flood Hazard Area Regulations.

8. **Food Forest Plans for 2025:** Matt noted that we need to have a much larger group discussion about the future of the Food Forest. He suggested holding a community discussion at the West Hartford Library this fall. Matt reported that Rachel noted that last year's community meeting in West Hartford wasn't well attended. Kyle noted that it is worth the effort to get more feedback. He added that he likes the approach of creating more biodiversity at the site and hopes to see the benefits of our work. Sally noted the need for a sustained effort and that it takes time to see the results of our work. Kyle suggested holding a community meeting in mid to late winter when people start to think about spring. Others agreed. Kyle stated that there were a lot of discussions during the summer workdays and that it would be nice to formalize those discussions.
7. **Quechee Abenaki Garden:** Earl reported that the final workday of the season is scheduled for Saturday, October 26th at 10:00 a.m. and will focus on putting the garden to bed. He reported that they harvested 80 ears of corn, 30 pounds of beans and 200 squash. He added that they have a lot of seeds for next year. Leftover food will go to needy families and food banks. He also noted that Quechee Lakes is hosting a winter clothing drive which will run until November 23rd.
8. **Community Resilience Building in Hartford:** Kyle reported that the committee is planning for the community-based workshop to be held in November or December. He added that Hartford is the first Vermont community to participate in the program. Lebanon, who participated in the program earlier this year was the first NH community. Matt noted that they are hoping to have a diverse group participate. Earl requested that Matt send him an email with a short description so he can see about recruiting Black, Indigenous, and people of color to the workshop.
9. **RH Openings:** Kyle noted that there are still two openings on RH.
10. **Announcements:**
 - a. Hartford Community Coalition Block Party: Kyle reported that RH shared a table with the Energy Commission at the 10/18 Block Party. There was a good turnout and the weather cooperated. Sally, Laura and Kyle staffed the table. Kyle stated that he spoke to about a dozen folks about RH's work, but there weren't any people interested in joining RH. He added that Michaela created a trifold with information about RH.
11. **Next RH Meeting:** Kyle noted that the next RH meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 26th. Matt noted that the meeting is on Tuesday of Thanksgiving week. He asked if members will be in-town. Everyone responded that they expect to be in-town and plan to attend the meeting.
12. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.
13. **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).