

Resilient Hartford Meeting
Approved Minutes of February 25, 2025

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

Staff Present: Matt Osborn, Town Planner.

Others Present: Rachel Kent.

A Resilient Hartford Meeting was held on Tuesday, February 25th in Room 312 of the Hartford Town Hall. Chair Kyle Katz called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m. and proceeded to read the hybrid meeting script followed by roll call.

1. **Public Comments:** There were no public comments.
2. **RH Minutes of January 28, 2025:** Kyle asked if there are any changes to the draft minutes of 1/28/25 RH meeting. There were no corrections. Earl made a motion to approve the minutes of 1/28/25 as written. The motion was seconded by Sally and unanimously approved.
3. **Potential Collaboration with the Cedar Circle Farm & Educational Center:** Matt noted that RH agreed to co-sponsor a seed saver workshop with the Cedar Circle Farm and Educational Center (CCF&EC) in East Thetford. Earl noted that the workshop dates are March 2nd and April 19th. It was agreed to co-sponsor the April 19th workshop. Matt agreed to connect with Kelsey from CCF&EC.
4. **Food Forest Community Gathering:** Matt noted that RH had discussed holding a Food Forest community gathering event in late winter. Kyle suggested moving it to late spring. Earl agreed and suggested tying it in with a tree planting to attract more participants. RH agreed. Rachel stated that she likes workshops that focus on learning. She cited the large turnout of the pruning workshop and said people are interested in learning new things. Sally noted that if we order trees, we need to do it in the next couple of weeks to avoid the nursery from selling out. Matt noted that he will have to make the order. Sally added that the trees and shrubs will have to be picked up around Earth Day, April 22nd.
5. **Clifford Park Riparian Area Planning:** Earl reported that he met Parks and Recreation Department Director Scott Hausler and Matt at Clifford Park in the fall to get an idea of what can be done to enhance the riparian buffer while ensuring that the plan meets Parks and Recreation Department goal to create designated view corridors to the river from the Park. Earl also met with Karen Ganey to start working on a plan for specific riparian trees and shrubs and their locations. However, Karen is very busy and unable to complete the plan. Earl noted that he hopes build-up and possibly expand the riparian buffer. Rachel noted that Sally and she met to review the allowed tree and shrub species stipulated by the Vermont Fruit & Nut Tree grant. She noted that the grant only allows the purchase of a maximum of four shrubs. Kyle suggested planting serviceberries and elderberries in the riparian area on the south side of the park. Earl recommended planting fruit and nut trees as well. Matt noted that we received a grant extension in the fall and need to spend out the grant this spring. Rachel and Sally agreed to work with Earl on specific tree species.
6. **Community Resilience Building in Hartford:** Kyle reported that the Nature Conservancy completed the Community Resilience Building report for Hartford. Matt added that there are some final edits being done and then the report will be posted on the website. Matt will send RH a pdf file.

7. **Hartford Hazard Mitigation Plan:** Matt reported that the Town is still waiting to hear back from the Vermont Emergency Services Department if the grant to update the HM Plan is awarded. Kyle suggested that we wait a couple of months and if the grant is not awarded, to plan an alternative strategy to update the Plan.
8. **Seed Library:** Matt noted that he likes the idea of providing vegetable seeds to residents as a way of encouraging backyard gardening and to promote the effort. He noted the success of the Potato Fest that RH sponsored in 2019 where RH obtained seed potatoes and distributed them free to the public. Matt noted that if we do a seed library that we will need to promote it to get the word out. RH agreed to work with the Upper Valley Seed Savers and the Cedar Circle Farm and Educational Center on a seed library.
9. **2/22 Fruit Tree Pruning Workshop:** Rachel reported that over 25 people attended the Fruit Tree Pruning Workshop at Town Hall led by tree pruner Kevin Geiger. She noted that it was a very successful event and the fruit trees look much better.
10. **Food Forest Signage:** Matt noted that any sign structure at the Food Forest must conform with the Hartford Flood Hazard Area Regulations and be designed to minimize flood damage and be adequately anchored to prevent moving or collapse during a flood event. It will require having an engineer approve the design and certify that it meets the Flood Regulations. Matt noted that there is currently a Town spending freeze. Once it is lifted, he will contact a local engineer about the cost to prepare the required submissions. In the meantime, he will work on developing plans and a cost estimate for the kiosk.
11. **RH Openings:** Kyle noted that there are two openings on RH. He reported that he made a pitch to attendees of the 2/20 Upper Valley Food-Co-op documentary event. He noted that he will also make a pitch at the 3/7 Environmental Mix & Mingle event.
12. **Announcements:**
 - a. Hartford Environmental Stewardship Mix & Mingle: Kyle reported he will join Earl at the Hartford Conservation Commission sponsored second annual environmental stewardship mix & mingle event on Friday, 3/7 at 5:30 p.m. at the Bugbee Senior Center.
 - b. Apple Corps Hazlewood Food Forest Event: Rachel reported that on Saturday, April 19th, Apple Corps is sponsoring an event at the Hazlewood Food Forest on Latham Works Lane. She invited RH members to attend.
13. **Next RH Meeting:** Kyle noted that the next RH meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 25th.
14. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 6:22 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).