

Resilient Hartford Meeting
Approved Meeting Notes of May 27, 2025

Resilient Hartford Members Present: Michaela Lavelle, Sally Mansur and Chair Kyle Katz.

Staff Present: Matt Osborn, Town Planner.

Others Present: Selectboard Liaison Ashley Andreas.

A Resilient Hartford Meeting was held on Tuesday, May 27th in Room 312 of the Hartford Town Hall. Chair Kyle Katz called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.

1. **Public Comments:** There were no public comments.
2. **Hartford Community Coalition Block Party:** Matt noted that the annual Block Party is scheduled for Wednesday, June 25th from 5-8 p.m. and asked if RH would like to have a booth at the event. Kyle noted that he is not available. Michaela said she will be staffing another booth at the event. Matt said that he would reach out to Laura Simon to see if she is available.
3. **Food Forest Workdays:** Kyle reported that he picked up trees and shrubs at the East Hill Tree Farm in Plainfield, Vermont for the planting on 4/27 and he picked up trees at the Elmore Roots Nursery in Wolcott for the 5/17 planting. There was rain on both planting dates but there was a good enough turnout to plant two plum trees, six chestnut trees, two junberry bushes and two elderberry bushes on 4/27 and three black walnut trees and three hazelnut trees on 5/17. Kyle noted that since then, there has been plenty of rain. Matt noted that if we get a dry spell for more than a few days, we will need to water the trees and shrubs. Sally volunteered to monitor the weather. Matt noted that the Butternut saplings will be shipped in the coming weeks. He will let folks know when they arrive so a planting date can be arranged.
4. **Meeting with Tree Board Representative:** Sally reported that she met with Clare Forseth of the Hartford Tree Board about their nursery at the Maxfield Sports Complex. In the spring, the Tree Board orders saplings and plants them at the nursery. It is an inexpensive way to nurture young trees. The Tree Board invited RH to participate in their spring tree order. It was agreed that we don't need any additional trees at this time but acknowledged that it is a nice gesture and is an inexpensive way to obtain tree stock.
5. **Food Forest Next Steps:** Kyle suggested that after planting eighteen trees and shrubs it would be helpful to have an updated map of the Food Forest with all of the plantings. Sally agreed that it would be nice to have an inventory. She volunteered to create a map.

Kyle suggested that once the butternuts arrive, we will need to set up a workday. At that time, we should plant a cover crop as well to create more color, create more biodiversity and help build the soil. Others agreed.
6. **Clifford Park Riparian Area Planning:** Sally reported that she has four Sycamore seedlings that she obtained for the riparian area. Matt noted that before planting, we need to obtain approval from the Parks and Recreation Department. He suggested using flagging and taking photos of the proposed locations where she would like to plant the saplings and send them to the Parks and Recreation Department.
7. **Vermont Fruit & Nut Tree Grant:** Matt reported that all of the funds from the grant have been expended. Since the grant requires that all trees and shrubs must be photographed, we

will have to wait for the butternut trees to arrive, be planted and photographed before he can close out the grant.

- 8. Food Forest Signage:** Matt presented photos of a sign with dimensions from the Oak Hill Outdoor Center kiosk. He noted that it is smaller than the Maanawaka Conservation Area kiosk and would be easier to construct and maintain. Others agreed. Matt reported that he is working with an engineer to meet the flood requirements for the kiosk. Once a design is completed, a materials list will be developed and submitted to Foggs for a quote for materials. Matt noted that the Vermont Works for Women agreed to build the kiosk.
- 9. Seed Library:** Michaela reported that there is nothing new to report on at this time.
- 10. Community Resilience Building in Hartford:** Matt reported that he is waiting for information from the Department of Public Works. With the 5/17 microburst, it may be a while before DPW has time to work on it.
- 11. RH Openings:** Kyle noted that there are three openings on RH. Michaela volunteered to post the openings on the Upper Valley Young Professionals community platform. Kyle thanked Michaela for doing that.
- 12. Announcements/Events:**
 - a. Hazard Mitigation Plan Funding: Kyle reported that the State of Vermont is trying to find funding to assist municipalities with updating Hazard Mitigation Plans.
 - b. Resilience Conference at Norwich University: Friday, September 12th. Matt noted that RH has funds for members to attend. He said to let him know if you would like to attend. Sally said that she would like to attend.
- 13. Next RH Meeting:** Kyle noted that the next RH meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 24th at 5:00 p.m.
- 14. Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 5:44 p.m.
- 15. Date RH Member Terms Expire:** Michaela Lavelle (6/27/26), Sally Mansur (9/16/27) Laura Simon (1/8/27) and chair Kyle Katz (10/30/26).