

Resilient Hartford Meeting
Approved Meeting Notes of June 24, 2025

Resilient Hartford Members Present: Sally Mansur, Laura Simon and Chair Kyle Katz.

Staff Present: Matt Osborn, Town Planner.

Others Present: Rachel Kent of Apple Corps and White River Junction resident Solange Saxby.

A Resilient Hartford Meeting was held on Tuesday, June 24th in Room 312 of the Hartford Town Hall. Chair Kyle Katz called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m. Introductions were made.

1. Meeting Notes of 4/22 & 5/27: Kyle asked if there were any changes to the draft meeting notes of 4/22 and 5/27. Being none, Kyle said the meeting notes of 4/22 and 5/27 were accepted.

2. Public Comments:

a. Ratcliffe Park Community Garden: Solange Saxby, a resident of Latham Works Lane inquired about the community garden at Ratcliffe Park. Matt responded that Ratcliffe Park is managed by the Parks and Recreation Department. Laura noted that Vital Communities was the community garden sponsor/manager, but she was unsure who is managing it now. Rachel noted that the garden has been unmanaged recently.

2. Hartford Community Coalition Block Party: Kyle reported that the Block Party is scheduled for tomorrow evening from 5:00 – 7:30 p.m. RH will have a booth. Laura and Matt agreed to staff it.

3. Food Forest: Matt reported that we have 6 Butternut seedlings that need to be planted. Rachel reported that John Moody is available to provide a talk on Butternuts for the planting in July. She added that Apple Corps is able to provide a stipend to John for the event. It was agreed to shoot for Sunday, July 13th at 9:00 a.m. for the planting and talk with Sunday, July 20th as a back-up date. Rachel will confirm with John. Kyle agreed to take care of the Butternut seedlings until the planting.

Matt reported that with the assistance of the Vermont Fruit and Nut Tree grant, RH was able to plant the following trees and shrubs this spring:

- On 4/27, planted two plum trees, six chestnut trees, two juneberry bushes and two elderberry bushes.
- On 5/17, planted three black walnut trees and three hazelnut trees.

Regarding watering, Kyle and Sally have been alternating watering duties. Kyle suggested that we look into purchasing water bags. Matt agreed to inquire about purchasing them.

4. Food Forest Map: Sally reported that she will put together a map of the Food Forest. Kyle noted the importance of having a map. He thanked Sally for taking it on.

5. UVM Leahy Institute Summer Interns: Kyle noted that we were contacted about having summer interns help with the Food Forest. It was agreed to pursue their assistance.

6. Free Tree Offer: Kyle reported that RH was offered some free that included Pawpaws, Yellowbud Hickory, Red Osier Dogwood, Serviceberry and Mulberry. He noted that we planted many

saplings this spring and that it is enough work just to maintain what we have. He thinks we should decline the offer at this time. RH agreed.

7. **Food Forest Signage:** Matt reported that he is working with Engineer Tim Schaal to work on a design of a kiosk that will withstand a flood event since the Food Forest is in the 100-year flood zone. The Vermont Works for Women agreed to build the kiosk in August at the Hartford Area Career & Technology Center. We will have to arrange transportation and installation. Once a design is completed, a materials list will be developed and submitted to Foggs for a quote for materials.

Rachel asked about signage for the kiosk. Matt noted that the sign area for the kiosk is about 4' x 3'. He envisioned a permanent sign at the top "Clifford Park Food Forest" and the remaining area for educational information. Kyle suggested a subcommittee work on the specific signage. Rachel, Kyle and Solange volunteered.

8. **Community Resilience Building in Hartford:** Matt reported that he is waiting for information from the Department of Public Works. Matt noted that the Department of Public Works has been out straight. Matt will follow up on it.
9. **RH Openings:** Solange Saxby reported that she applied to serve on RH. Her interview with the Selectboard is scheduled for this evening. Kyle noted that with Solange's appointment, there will be two openings.
10. **Announcements/Events:** There were no announcements.
11. **Next RH Meeting:** Kyle noted that the next RH meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 22nd at 5:00 p.m.
12. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 6:06 p.m.
13. **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).