

Resilient Hartford Meeting
Approved Minutes of July 22, 2025

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

Staff Present: Matt Osborn, Town Planner.

Others Present: Rachel Kent, Apple Corps.

A Resilient Hartford Meeting was held on Tuesday, July 22nd in Room 312 of the Hartford Town Hall. Chair Kyle Katz called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. Kyle welcomed new RH member Solange Saxby who was appointed to the Selectboard on June 24th. Others welcomed Solange as well.

1. **Meeting Notes of June 24, 2025:** Kyle asked if there were any changes to the draft meeting notes of 6/24/25. Being none, Kyle said the meeting notes of 6/24/25 were accepted.
2. **RH Minutes of March 25, 2025:** Kyle asked if there were any changes to the draft minutes of 3/25/25 RH meeting. There were no corrections. Sally made a motion to approve the minutes of 3/25/25 as written. The motion was seconded by Solange and unanimously approved.
3. **Public Comments:** There were no public comments.
4. **Butternut Talk & Planting:** Kyle reported that there was a great turnout for the July 13th butternut talk by John Moody of the Winter Center for Indigenous Traditions followed by a potluck and planting. John spoke about the history and importance of butternut trees to indigenous people. In addition to planting seven butternut saplings, Kyle said there was general clean-up and weeding around the fruit and nut trees.
5. **Food Forest Update:** Rachel noted that the Food Forest shows signs of biodiversity. The trees are doing well and the wildflower garden looks great. Others agreed. Rachel reported that 2025 has been a tough year for fruit trees due to the rainy spring and the impact on pollination. She suggested planting good pollinator plants and inventory what plants that we have in the Food Forest to have consistently blooming plants from spring to fall. By doing so, we will improve the long-term viability of the Food Forest. Others agreed. Kyle noted he was pleased with how the wildflower garden turned out after planting last fall. Rachel suggested expanding the wildflower garden this fall. Others agreed.
6. **Food Forest Map:** Kyle reported that he is working with Sally on the map utilizing Illustrator. His goal is a map that is presentable and can be posted on the kiosk. Solange suggested using Canva instead since it is more user friendly. She noted that there are free and paid versions. She thinks it is a great on-line software. Rachel agreed. It was agreed to look into it.
7. **Food Forest Workdays:** Matt reported that he contacted Karen Gainey about scheduling a workday with the three UVM interns if they are still available. RH agreed. He asked Karen about available dates. Rachel suggested that once we hear, send out a notice to the Food Forest group. Others agreed.
8. **Food Forest Kiosk:** Matt reported that local structural engineer Tim Schaal was hired to design a kiosk that will withstand a flood event given that the Food Forest is located in a flood zone. He also reported that he is working with Lance Johnson of the Hartford Area Career & Technology Center about the kiosk design and materials list for the planned construction of the kiosk by the

Vermont Works for Women next month. Matt also reported that he is working on the zoning permit for the kiosk.

9. **Food Forest Signage:** Kyle reported that Rachel, Solange and he will work at the signage for the kiosk.
10. **Seed Library:** Since there is nothing new to report on, Kyle suggested taking this off the agenda. Matt suggested contacting the Upper Valley Seed Savers next winter and promoting opportunities to residents to obtain free seeds. RH agreed.
11. **Quechee Abenaki Garden:** Matt reported that there is a workday scheduled for Monday, July 28th from 9:30 a.m. – noon.
12. **Community Resilience Building in Hartford:** Matt reported that the Community Resilience Building report for Hartford is winding down final editing. Once completed, Matt will email RH a pdf file of the Report.
13. **Community Coalition Block Party:** Matt reported that RH shared a table with the Conservation Commission at the 6/25 Block Party event. Laura and Matt staffed the table. Matt stated that it's a big event. Rachel agreed and noted that there are so many organizations with tables that it is overwhelming. Rachel staffed a table for Apple Corps.
14. **RH Annual Update to the Selectboard:** Kyle reported that he will be going before the Selectboard this evening for the RH annual update.
15. **RH Openings:** Kyle noted that there are two openings on RH. He suggested that we keep promoting the openings. Rachel said she is interested in serving if Hartford would allow non-residents to serve on RH. Matt stated that it would require a change in the RH Bylaws and approval by the Selectboard. Matt suggested talking to Town Manager John Haverstock and Selectboard chair Mary Erdei to get their feedback on the idea.
16. **Announcements/Events:**
 - a. Dartmouth Local Solutions Conference: Rachel reported that Dartmouth is sponsoring a major regional conference on climate and resilience on September 18th and 19th. Kyle reported that he hopes to attend.
 - b. Resilience Conference at Norwich University: Sally reported that Norwich University is sponsoring a Resilience Conference on Friday, September 12th. Sally plans to attend. Matt noted that RH has funds for members to attend.
17. **Next RH Meeting:** Matt noted that RH often skips the August meeting to focus on workdays instead. He asked RH about a meeting in August. The consensus was to forego a meeting and focus on workdays. Kyle noted that the next RH meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 23rd.
18. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 5:55 p.m.
19. **Date RH Member Terms Expire:** Michaela Lavelle (6/27/26), Sally Mansur (9/16/27), Solange Saxby (6/23/28), Laura Simon (1/8/27) and chair Kyle Katz (10/30/26).