

Resilient Hartford Meeting
Approved Minutes of September 23, 2025

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

Staff Present: Matt Osborn, Town Planner.

Others Present: None.

A Resilient Hartford Meeting was held on Tuesday, September 23rd in Room 312 of the Hartford Town Hall. Chair Kyle Katz called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.

1. **Meeting Minutes of July 22, 2025:** Kyle asked if there were any changes to the draft minutes of 7/22/25. Being none, Kyle said the minutes of 7/22/25 were accepted.
2. **Public Comments:** There were no public comments.
3. **Resilient Hartford Annual Update to the Selectboard:** Kyle reported that he went before the Selectboard at the July 22nd Selectboard meeting to provide an update on the work of Resilient Hartford. He noted that the meeting went well.
4. **Food Forest August 12th Workday:** Kyle reported that Karen Ganey and three University of Vermont interns participated in the Food Forest workday. Kyle noted that it was a very hot day but the group pulled a lot of Canada Fleabane, liberated perennials from weeds and placed black plastic over grass for the planned expansion of the pollinator garden.
5. **Fall Food Forest Workday & Pollinator Garden Expansion:** Kyle noted that David Hammond of Creating Habitats for Pollinators has offered assistance to Resilient Hartford to expand the pollinator garden. Kyle suggested that there be one workday this fall to work on the Pollinator Garden and other needed Food Forest tasks. Matt stated that he will follow-up by contacting David about selecting a date for the workday. Matt noted that David Hammond will be providing wildflower seeds. Once a date has been selected, Matt suggested emailing the Food Forest Group. Michaela suggested getting the word out for the October 3rd tour that is sponsored by Quechee Library, Upper Valley Food Co-op, Apple Corps and Hartford Hub. She also suggested contacting Ben Fletcher of the Upper Valley Food Co-op.
6. **Food Forest Watering:** Matt thanked Kyle and Sally for their hard work this summer watering the Food Forest trees during particularly dry conditions. Kyle noted that the current drought made it very challenging. Kyle reported that the chestnut trees look good and the Butternuts look a little stressed, which is understandable given the current drought. Kyle stated that he is hopeful that this week's changing weather pattern will provide some much-needed relief.
7. **Food Forest Map:** Kyle reported that now that things are slowing down at the Food Forest, he is able to devote more time to other items such as the Food Forest map. He will work on it with Sally and Solange.
8. **Food Forest Kiosk:** Matt reported that it took longer than expected for the Vermont Works for Women to complete construction of the two kiosks, one for the Food Forest and one for the Quechee Abenaki Garden. Lance Johnson of the Hartford Area Career & Technology Center worked with the Vermont Works for Women on it. Matt noted that they are now trying to figure out delivery and installation of the kiosks. Originally, Vermont Works for Women were going to

deliver and install. Matt stated that concrete footers will be required for the kiosk installation to meet flood regulations, and the cost is beyond our normal budget. Kyle suggested holding off installation until 2026. Matt stated that the kiosk could be stored in the Clifford Park Barn over winter.

9. **Food Forest Signage:** Kyle reported that Rachel, Solange and he will work on the signage for the kiosk this winter.
10. **Quechee Abenaki Garden:** Matt reported that the Hartford 250th Commemoration Committee sponsored a tour of the Abenaki Garden on August 30th and there was a great turnout.
11. **Community Resilience Building in Hartford:** Matt reported that the Community Resilience Building report for Hartford took longer to edit, fact check and work with other Town departments, but it is finally completed. He noted that it will provide a good introduction to updating the Hartford Hazard Mitigation Plan. Kyle noted that the CRB Report has plenty of strategies that we can use in the Hazard Mitigation Plan. Sally added that the CRB Report has many recommendations on roads, bridges and culverts.
12. **Hartford Hazard Mitigation Plan Update:** Matt reported that the Hazard Mitigation Plan is set to expire on 3/18/26 and that it needs to be updated in the coming months. RH will be working with the Climate Action Steering Team (CAST), Hartford Environmental Sustainability Coordinator Dana Clawson and Matt on the update. Matt stated that a Steering Committee of members from RH, CAST, the Planning Commission and staff will be established. Matt noted that we have a very good HM Plan and he is hoping that it won't need a lot of changes. Kyle noted that as part of the HM Plan, there are public outreach requirements as well as coordination with non-profit organizations, core businesses and utility companies. Kyle emphasized the need to check the right boxes. He also noted the need to work closely with the Hartford Department of Public Works. He said that he will inquire about assistance from the Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee Regional Commission on the update.
13. **RH Openings:** Kyle noted that there are two openings on RH. He suggested that we keep promoting the openings.
14. **Announcements/Events:**
 - a. Dartmouth Local Solutions Conference: Matt reported that Environmental Sustainability Coordinator Dana Clawson attended Dartmouth Resilience Conference.
 - b. Ratcliffe Park Community Garden: Solange reported that the Ratcliffe Park Community Garden is not currently being actively managed. She is interested in getting it up and operational again as a component of food security.
15. **Next RH Meeting:** Kyle noted that the next RH meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 28th.
16. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 5:55 p.m.
17. **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).