

Resilient Hartford Meeting Draft Meeting Minutes of July 21, 2026

Resilient Hartford Members Present: Jimmy Coleman, Sally Mansur, Tad Montgomery, Solange Saxby and Chair Kyle Katz.

Staff Present: Matt Osborn, Town Planner.

Others Present: Environmental Sustainability Coordinator Dana Clawson and Wilder resident Gwen Tuson.

A Resilient Hartford Meeting was held on Tuesday, July 21st in Room 312 of the Hartford Town Hall. Chair Kyle Katz called the meeting to order at 5:05. Gwen Tuson introduced herself. She has served as chair of the Hartford 250th Commemoration Committee and noted that the Committee will be dissolving and she is considering joining another Town committee. She is here to learn about the work of RH.

1. **Meeting Minutes of June 23, 2026:** Kyle asked if there were any changes to the draft meeting notes of 6/23/26. Being none, Kyle stated that the meeting minutes of 6/23/26 are accepted as written.
2. **Public Comments:**
 - a. Climate Action Steering Team (CAST) Proposal: Dana Clawson noted that CAST was involved in the update of the Hazard Mitigation Plan (HM Plan). CAST is interested in taking an active role in monitoring the HM Plan which has to be updated every five years. Kyle noted that facing a tight deadline to complete the HM Plan update, the last update was a heavy lift and RH appreciated CAST's assistance in the update. Dana noted that CAST is also considering a name change to incorporate hazard mitigation into their name which would have to be approved by the Selectboard.
3. **Selectboard Affordability Initiative:** Kyle reported that the Selectboard has invited RH, the Energy Commission and the Homelessness and Housing Committee to work with the Selectboard on ideas to make Hartford more affordable. Matt noted that a brainstorming session has been scheduled for Wednesday, August 12th. Regarding ideas from RH, Kyle noted that the lending library is an idea. Jimmy noted the importance of food security and social connectedness and the importance of community dinners. Tad noted that Brattleboro developed a services time trade.
4. **Food Forest Plans & June 21st Food Forest Workday:** Kyle reported that we had fabulous weather for the Clifford Park volunteer day last Sunday, July 19th. Eight volunteers showed up to help make the day a success. The pollinator meadow is coming along nicely. Our goal was to place additional plastic from Luna Bleu Farm to solarize the soil adjacent to the existing wildflower meadow in preparation for its expansion. The plan is to allow these areas to adequately solarize so that we can expand the wildflower plantings to new sections of the food forest. Seeding will take place in mid-late October. In order to put down the plastic, we needed to weed a substantial section of Canada fleabane that had grown too high to cover, but was not yet going to seed. While weeding, we transplanted and watered some established vervain to try to minimize the impact of the plastic on plants that we'd like to encourage. The plastic will keep anything from growing where we will seed in the fall and hopefully kill some weed seeds in/on the soil. In addition, the paths through the food forest were mowed and we were able to do a bit of much-needed weeding around some of the pear trees and cut off suckers that were growing from the bases. One exciting development is blossoms on one of the chestnut trees. That tree also had

suckers removed. Kyle thanked the volunteers for the productive workday. Kyle noted that the next volunteer day is scheduled for August 23rd.

Kyle noted that the food forest plans are an evolving process. The focus is on creating more biodiversity adding that we planted several trees last year and are waiting to see how the trees do.

5. **Food Forest Kiosk, Signage & Map:** Matt reported that he has reached out to more than 15 contractors about pouring the concrete forms for the Kiosk foundation and installing the kiosk. To date, he has only received one quote for \$4,802. This exceeds the funds that RH has currently. He discussed this with Planning and Development Director Lori Hirshfield and she is investigating other funds for the project. Kyle noted that draft signage and a map have been developed for the kiosk.
6. **Hartford Hazard Mitigation Plan Update:** Matt reported that he still hasn't heard anything from Vermont Emergency Management (VEM) about the HM Plan. The Plan was submitted four months ago. Kyle suggested contacting VEM to see where it sits in the review process. Matt agreed to contact VEM.
7. **Resilience Hub Toolkit:** Jimmy reported that next week, he will be meeting with one of the authors of the Resilience Hub Toolkit. Kyle suggested asking about ways to reach out to the community about the Toolkit
8. **Tool Lending Library (TLL):** Tad reported that there is some interest in developing a larger Upper Valley TLL. Jimmy noted that he will be meeting with Anna Hubbard of Vital Communities who is working on a TLL to see about a potential partnership. Kyle suggested getting the word out to the community about TLL's in the area.
9. **RH Openings:** Kyle noted that RH now has two openings. Matt suggested working with Town Communications and Media Specialist J.D. Hawks about his assistance in promoting the openings noting the success experienced by the Historic Preservation Commission after working with J.D. Kyle and Jimmy volunteered to work on a description of RH for J.D. to promote.
10. **Announcements/Events:**
 - a. Energy & Climate Focus Group Discussion: Kyle reported that the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources is sponsoring focus group discussions around the state regarding climate and energy. One of the focus group discussions will occur in White River Junction. Kyle will email RH the flyer for the event.
 - b. Upper Valley Adaptation Workgroup Energy & Climate Monthly Meet-up: Tad reported that the Upper Valley Adaptation Workgroup is starting a monthly energy and climate soirée on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 4:30 p.m.
11. **Next RH Meeting:** Kyle noted that there is no August meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 22nd.
12. **Adjournment:** Kyle made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jimmy seconded the motion which was unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

13. Date RH Member Terms Expire: Jimmy Coleman (3/16/29), Tad Montgomery (1/19/29), Sally Mansur (9/16/27), Solange Saxby (6/23/28), and chair Kyle Katz (10/30/26).