

**Draft Minutes of the
Community Resilience Organization Hartford
January 27, 2016**

Members Present: Jon Bouton, Kye Cochran, and Chair Dylan Kreis.

Staff Present: Planner Matt Osborn and Department of Planning and Development Services Director Lori Hirshfield .

Others Present: Simon Dennis.

A Community Resilience Organization Hartford (CROH) Meeting was held at the Hartford Town Hall, 171 Bridge Street, WRJ, Vermont, on Wednesday, January 27, 2016 in Meeting Room 2. Chair Dylan Kreis called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. Matt Osborn reported that he heard from Rich Kozlowski that he could not attend the meeting. Dylan Kreis reported that he heard from Scott Cooney that he was unable to attend the meeting.

1. **Review of the December 30, 2015 CRO Meeting Minutes:** Dylan Kreis asked if there were any changes or additions to the Draft Meeting Minutes of December 30th. Since there were no corrections or additions, the minutes were accepted as written.

2. **Potential Partners: Transition Town White River Junction:** Dylan Kreis welcomed Simon Dennis to the meeting. Dylan stated that CROH is seeking to partner with organizations with similar interests in resiliency. He added that Simon was invited to the meeting to talk about Transition Town and a possible partnership with CROH. Simon stated that the CROH concept has a lot in common with the foundation of Transition Town. Jon Bouton agreed. Simon stated that after several years, Transition Town organizers have not been meeting regularly. He noted that Apple Corps, an outgrowth of Transition Town, is active and has gained footing. Simon stated that he would love to see a broader convening in the community of different organizations interested in resilience. He noted that the 5th anniversary of the Tropical Storm Irene flood is August 28th and suggested a large event around it. Kye Cochran agreed. Simon noted that there are several active resiliency organizations in the Upper Valley. Dylan responded that CROH could take the lead in bringing other groups together. He noted that CROH is connected to the Hartford Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Simon Dennis reiterated a 5th anniversary Irene event and generating excitement. Lori stated that Upper Valley Strong will be meeting soon and they could be a potential partner. Simon noted that the Upper Valley Climate Adaptation Group is active and gaining momentum.

Simon Dennis noted that there is a great deal of hard science information regarding climate change. According to Michael Simpson, chair of the Center for Climate Preparedness and Community Resilience at Antioch University New England, by the year 2070, the 500-year flood will occur every 25 years, the 100-year flood every 7-10 years and the 25-year flood every other year. Simon said that raising public awareness is important noting that Professor Simpson is available to speak. He also noted that there is a climate change cost/benefit analysis for infrastructure projects.

Dylan Kreis asked Simon Dennis if he received the S.W.O.T. analysis from CROH. Simon responded with the following Transition Town assessment:

Strengths: organizing skills and connection to the community

Weaknesses: burnout

Opportunities: overlap and convergence

- 3. CROH Mission Statement, Objectives and Actions:** Lori Hirshfield stated that she thinks the CROH mission statement is too broad and not clear how it is distinguished from other groups. She added that CROH came out of the Hazard Mitigation Plan and the need to better respond to manmade and natural disasters. Dylan Kreis responded that the mission could be broad and the objectives and actions specific. Jon Bouton stated that the CROH role needs to be specific and sees the CROH role as more to do with environmental change than social or economic change. Lori stated that the Hazard Mitigation Plan is about resilience and is specific. She suggested picking from the list of projects and creating a work program from it. Lori said the pieces are coming together for CROH. She sees CROH as a doer and facilitator noting that the pitch to the Selectboard to create CROH was the implementation of the Hazard Mitigation Plan. She added that partnerships are important, as well as producing tangible projects that energize groups. Lori stated that CROH is building a base and conducting a S.W.O.T. analysis is a great idea. Kye Cochran stated that she supports the idea of working on projects and leading to a big event.
- 4. Idea Boards Update:** Kye Cochran presented the Idea Board Question #3, “write a new year’s resolution for a stronger Hartford”. Kye did some illustrations for the sheets. She agreed to distribute sheets to the Upper Valley Food Coop and Quechee and West Hartford Libraries. Kye suggested placing an Idea Board at the Tip Top Building, but noted that an easel is needed. Lori Hirshfield stated that staff will look into purchasing an easel. Matt Osborn agreed to deliver the sheets to the Hartford Village and Wilder Village Libraries and the Town Hall as well as posting the question on the Hartford List Serv.
- 5. Next Meeting:** Dylan Kreis reported that the next CROH meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 24th. He suggested spending time discussing the Hazard Mitigation Plan. The Committee agreed.
- 6. CRO Vermont Annual Retreat:** Dylan Kreis reported that the CRO Vermont will team up with Resilient Vermont for the annual retreat, which will be held on May 19th & 20th at Norwich University in Northfield.
- 7. Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 5:45 p.m.