

**Approved Minutes of the  
Community Resilience Organization Hartford  
May 11, 2016**

**Members Present:** Jon Bouton, Kye Cochran and Laura Simon.

**Staff Present:** Planner Matt Osborn.

**Others Present:** Selectboard Liaison Simon Dennis and Energy Commission member Cathy Geiger.

A Community Resilience Organization Hartford (CROH) Meeting was held at the Hartford Town Hall, 171 Bridge Street, WRJ, Vermont, on Wednesday, May 11, 2016 in Room 317. Laura Simon called the meeting to order at 4:44 p.m. Introductions were made.

1. **Review of the April 27, 2016 CRO Meeting Minutes:** Laura Simon asked if there are any changes or additions to the Draft Meeting Minutes of April 27<sup>th</sup>. Matt Osborn reported a correction requested by Jon Bouton. The minutes were accepted with the noted correction. Laura gave a brief synopsis of the meeting highlights.
2. **Resilient Vermont Conference:** Matt Osborn reported that he registered Dylan, Jon, Kye and himself for the Resilient Vermont Conference scheduled for May 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> in Northfield. Kye and Jon agreed to carpool for the Saturday sessions.
3. **Hazard Awareness Week:** Laura Simon noted that CROH Committee is planning for the Hartford Hazard Awareness Week event to be held August 22-27.
  - a. Logo: Kye Cochran reported that she has been working on the logo for the event. She presented the draft. The Committee complimented Kye on the logo.
  - b. Name for the Event: There was discussion about a possible name for the event. Kye Cochran suggested Hartford Bridges: Building Resilience. Jon Bouton suggested Hartford Bridges: Building Connections. Kye suggested adding Neighborhood in between Building and Connections. Simon Dennis suggested Hartford Resilience Week: Building Skills and Connections. Matt Osborn suggested thinking about it and picking up discussion at the 5/25 CROH Meeting. The Committee agreed. Cathy Geiger suggested focusing on the answer and not on the problem.
  - c. Workshop Selection: Cathy Geiger asked how the workshop topics are being selected. Kye Cochran responded that Laura Simon and Kye Cochran are responsible for coming up with a list to present to the Committee. Simon Dennis stated that he knows some folks who would be interested in teaching a workshop. Simon also suggested that Kye and Laura develop a form to use for selecting workshops. Kye agreed to develop the form. Simon suggested developing a schedule as well. The Committee agreed.

Cathy Geiger noted that the week of August 22<sup>nd</sup> is the week before school starts. She suggested an event focused on kids and families such as Alert Now and thinks it could draw a number of families. She suggested involving the school district.

Jon Bouton stated that he is researching emergency kits and suggested developing a homemade sample kit. Laura Simon volunteered to contact the State Emergency Preparedness Office and inquire about Emergency Kits and possible funding sources.

Laura Simon stated that she has been in touch with Len Brown of the Bugbee Senior Center (BSC) regarding a workshop geared to seniors and noted that BSC has specific guidelines for lunch programs and is limited to a 20 minute program followed by time for questions. .

Laura Simon reported that she has not heard back from the Fire Department about possible workshops that they could teach. She suggested one event at the Bugbee Senior Center on seniors, an event at the Fire Station and one at a library. Matt Osborn offered to contact the Fire Department and the Red Cross about possible workshops and their participation in the event.

Laura Simon reported that she talked to Hartford Historical Society (HHS) President Susanne Abetti about an oral history session and Susanne was receptive to the idea. Matt Osborn responded that he spoke to HHS archivist Pat Stark and Pat indicated that their primary oral history volunteer, Tammy Ladd, had relocated out of state and did not think that the Historical Society could undertake an oral history project at this time. Matt did note that the Historical Society has some written personal accounts of Hartford residents who experienced the Irene Flood. Cathy Geiger reported that she worked with John Dolan of Vermont Institute of Natural Science on a 20-minute video about the Irene Flood. She offered to show the film and lead a discussion of those who experienced the flood. The Committee thought it was a great idea. Cathy agreed to forward a link to the video. As an Energy Commission member, Cathy also offered to lead a workshop on energy independence as well. The Committee agreed.

Simon Dennis offered to prepare a notice for the Hartford List Serv asking for volunteers to teach a workshop. He also suggested asking residents what topics they would like to have a workshop on.

Cathy Geiger noted the importance of communication in West Hartford during the Irene flood and how effective it was in helping them recover from the event. She stated that the faith-based groups were very effective in organizing their members and provided services for the flood victims.

Matt Osborn reported that he heard from CROH chair Dylan Kreis that Dylan is in the process of applying for grants from Ben & Jerry's and L.L. Bean for the CROH week. He will continue to look for other sources of financial support and is working on the media statement for the event. He plans to have a draft to send out for the Committee to review next week.

Kye Cochran noted the importance of neighborhood groups to community resilience. She stated that she would like to have a session on it.

Jon Bouton noted that there are three community groups that we have identified; seniors, schools and religious organizations. Simon Dennis suggested looking into "Resilience Circles" and proceeded to show a 2-minute video.

- d. Summary of Tasks: Laura Simon suggested going around and identifying what each person will be working on prior to the next meeting.

Kye Cochran stated that she will continue work on developing the logo, develop a workshop proposal form and develop a schedule for event.

Laura Simon stated that she will research emergency kits and possible funding.

Jon Bouton stated that he will make school contacts.

Simon Dennis stated that he will develop a draft notice for the List Serv.

Matt Osborn stated that he will contact the Fire Department and Red Cross about courses.

Cathy Geiger will provide a link to the Irene video and discuss with the Energy Commission about an energy workshop.

4. **Next Meeting**: Matt Osborn noted that the next CROH meeting will be on Wednesday, May 25<sup>th</sup>.
5. **Adjournment**: The meeting was adjourned at 6:16 p.m.