

**Draft Minutes of the
Community Resilience Organization Hartford
January 25, 2017**

Members Present: Kye Cochran and Chair Dylan Kreis.

Staff Present: Assistant Fire Chief Alan Bebee and Planner Matt Osborn.

Others Present: Selectboard Liaison Simon Dennis.

A Community Resilience Organization Hartford (CROH) Meeting was held at the Hartford Town Hall, 171 Bridge Street, WRJ, Vermont, on Wednesday, January 25, 2017 in Meeting Room 2. The meeting was called to order at 4:33 p.m.

1. **Review of the January 4th CROH Meeting Minutes:** Dylan Kreis asked if there were any changes or corrections regarding the Draft Minutes of the January 4th CROH Meeting. There were no corrections. Dylan stated that the minutes are accepted as written.
2. **Hazard Mitigation Plan:** Dylan Kreis reported that Lori Hirshfield attended the January 4th CROH Meeting to discuss the Hazard Mitigation Plan (HM Plan) Implementation Strategies. The 2014 HM Plan was adopted prior to the establishment of CROH, which occurred the following year. Dylan stated that he would like to see CROH work on developing neighborhood leaders as a way of becoming more resilient in dealing with natural disasters. Simon Dennis stated that he will forward CROH information from Transition Streets, a localized approach to resilience. The Committee reviewed the list of implementation strategies that are appropriate for CROH to incorporate into their work program. Matt Osborn noted that many of these can be accomplished as part of the Resilience Week Program. Dylan agreed and stated that we can disseminate information on many aspects of resilience.

HM Plan Implementation Strategies:

- A.1.1 Develop and implement a multi-hazard public awareness program.
 - A.1.3 Consult with partners about hazard data and risk assessment.
 - B.1.6 Mitigate the impact of flooding working with Conservation Commission to protect natural resources.
 - B.2.11 Increase local flood risk awareness.
 - B.2.12 Investigate the Community Rating System of the National Flood Insurance Program.
 - B.2.16 Consider establishing an annual clean our culvert program.
 - C.2.2 Provide information to the public about how the town will respond to emergencies and what residents should do.
 - D.1.3 Develop a public awareness campaign to secure residential properties from severe wind events.
 - E.2.2 Investigate interest to organize community-based outreach, assistance and shelters for vulnerable populations during extended freezing and power outages.
 - E.2.3 Develop a public awareness program regarding severe winter storms.
 - F.1.1 Provide educational materials and outreach regarding residential fire sprinklers.
3. **Resilience Week 2017:** Matt Osborn noted that CROH agreed to hold Resilience Week August 21-26, the same week as last year's event. Dylan noted that CROH also agreed to hold community forums Friday evening and Saturday morning on resilience. The Community Assessment Tool will be used on Friday evening to identify gaps. On Saturday, the focus will be on prioritizing actions and determining what is feasible given political and financial constraints. Peg Elmer will be the lead facilitator.

Dylan suggested developing a list of possible workshops for Resilience Week:

- Show the documentary “How to Let Go of the World and Love All the Things that Climate Can’t Change”
- Resilience Panel Discussion
- Emergency Preparedness/Public Safety
- Recruiting for Community Groups
- Economic Resilience
- Skill Share topics such as small engine repair, tool sharpening, bread baking or canning
- Emergency Communications
- Resilience Overview (Where are we now?)
- Outdoor Cooking
- Human Powered Fair

Dylan noted that Anne Goodrich of Upper Valley Strong offered to conduct a Resilience Week workshop. Alan Beebe stated that the Fire Department could conduct a workshop again as well.

Simon Dennis suggested teaming up with the Hartford Community Coalition (HCC) on their annual June Block Party since it is a huge event and is very popular. Dylan Kreis responded that CROH should have its own event. However, Dylan suggested participating in the Block Party and having a table with resilience educational materials. Dylan suggested meeting with HCC to see how we can work together.

- 4. High Meadows Fund Watershed Grant:** Matt Osborn reported that the High Meadows Fund has allocated \$180,000 for building resilience in Vermont’s watersheds. A letter of intent is due February 1st and the application is due June 1st. Matt noted that the Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee Regional Commission is applying for a grant for the Ottawaquechee River Basin and is including Hartford as a participating community. Matt reported that he contacted the White River Partnership (WRP) about their interest in a watershed grant. WRP is working on a project on the Upper Branch of the White River, but did not have anything in mind for the Lower Branch. The WRP offered to inquire with other Lower Branch communities to see if there is any interest in a possible grant project. Matt noted that interested participants are encouraged to attend the ECHO Summit on March 24-25 in Burlington.
- 5. CRO Assessment Tool:** Matt Osborn and Dylan Kreis reported that they participated in the beta testing of the on-line CRO Assessment Tool. Matt stated that he thinks the on-line version works well. The tool tabulates the scoring automatically. Dylan noted that we will be using the Assessment Tool during the Friday evening session of Resilience Week. He agreed to send a link to the Assessment for CROH members to use.
- 6. Vermont Resilience Conference:** Matt Osborn reported that the Annual Resilience Conference at Norwich University is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, April 29th. It will be a one-day event. He noted that we could use this time to help plan for the community forums. Matt reported that he agreed to serve on the Planning Committee for the event.
- 7. CRO Vermont Quarterly Exchange:** Matt Osborn reported that Jon Bouton covered the CRO Vermont quarterly exchange earlier today. Matt distributed notes that Jon took of the meeting.
- 8. Next Meeting:** Matt Osborn noted that the next CROH meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 22nd at 4:30 p.m.
- 9. Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 5:55 p.m.