Draft Minutes of the
Community Resilience Organization Hartford
February 22, 2017

Members Present: Jon Bouton and Kye Cochran.
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, February 22, 2017 in Meeting Room 2. Matt Osborn reported that Dylan Kreis and Laura Simon contacted him to say that they are unable to attend. The meeting was called to order at 4:40 p.m.

1. **Review of the January 25th CROH Meeting Minutes**: Matt Osborn asked if there were any changes or corrections regarding the Draft Minutes of the January 25th CROH Meeting. There were no corrections. The minutes were accepted as written.

2. **Additions/Changes to the Agenda:** Matt Osborn asked if there are any additions or changes to the agenda. Simon Dennis requested adding Cataclysmic Risk Assessment. The Committee agreed.

3. **Hazard Mitigation Plan**: Matt Osborn reported that many of the Hazard Mitigation Plan (HM Plan) Implementation Strategies relate to public awareness and outreach programs.

   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.

   Matt noted that many of these can be accomplished as part of the Resilience Week Program as well as a possible High Meadows Fund Watershed grant, which he will discuss next.

4. **High Meadows Fund Watershed Grant**: Matt Osborn reported that Michael Storace of the Two Rivers-Ottauquechee Regional Commission (TRORC) is leading an effort to apply for a High Meadows Fund for Flood Resilience in the Ottauquechee River Basin. Matt stated that the effort will focus on public outreach which falls in closely with the CROH Mission and implementation of the Hartford Hazard Mitigation Plan. He added that CROH and the Hartford Conservation Commission agreed to participate as members of the team with other communities and entities. Matt also reported that the project team was selected to attend the ECHO Environmental Summit on March 24-25 in Burlington. The session will help shape the grant application which is due on June 1st. Matt reported that he will be attending a project planning meeting with other partners on Thursday, March 2nd.

5. **CRO Assessment Tool**: Matt Osborn suggested that CROH take the Assessment Tool as a group at a future CROH Meeting. He noted that scoring will vary depending on the perspective of the individual. He thinks having a group discussion with a consensus approach to scoring might be more accurate in assessing Hartford's ability to be more resilient. The Committee agreed.

6. **Resilience Week 2017**: Matt Osborn noted that Resilience Week is scheduled for August 21-26. Matt noted that CROH developed the following brainstorming list of possible workshop topics at the 1/25/16 CROH Meeting:

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

CROH came up with the following additions to the list:

- Flood Resilience & Buffers
- Forests and Resilience
- Event focused on finding neighborhood leaders
- Emotional Resilience – how to manage updated climate data

Jon Bouton suggested a different name for the community forums in order to generate more interest.

Alan Beebe agreed to discuss with Fire Dept. colleagues possible topics for an emergency preparedness session(s).

Matt stated that kicking off the event with a panel discussion on Monday again along with the community forums on Friday and Saturday, it doesn't provide many more sessions. Basically, there are openings Tuesday through Thursday which leaves only six or so available workshops.

Kye Cochran suggested personal invitations to folks to encourage attendance. Jon Bouton agreed and suggested building the event towards the community forums and suggested identifying folks to invite to the forums.

Matt noted that we should start assigning tasks at the next CROH Meeting. The Committee agreed.

Simon offered to put together a save the date flyer using the same format as last year's notice.

7. **Vermont Resilience Conference**: Matt Osborn reported that the Annual Resilience Conference at Norwich University is scheduled for Saturday, April 29th. It will be a one-day event ending in the early afternoon. He noted that we could use this time to help plan for the community forums. Matt reported that he participated in a Planning Committee conference call for the event recently. The Committee is made up of several Norwich University professors, students, two state employees and Peg Elmer Hough.

8. **Cataclysmic Risk Assessment**: Simon Dennis stated that he would like to discuss how the Town would respond to an economic collapse or environmental crisis. He stated that he is interested in a broader dialogue at the municipal level starting with the Town of Hartford and possibly discuss with other towns. He would like to see Hartford ahead of the curve. Simon requested that this be placed on a future CROH agenda.

9. **Next Meeting**: Jon Bouton asked if it is possible to change the meeting date to March 29th instead of March 22nd. Kye Cochran, Alan Bebee, Simon Dennis and Matt Osborn are available on the 29th. Matt agreed to contact Dylan Kreis and Laura Simon about the meeting date change.

10. **Adjournment**: The meeting was adjourned at 6:06 p.m.