

**Approved Minutes of the  
Community Resilience Organization Hartford  
March 29, 2017**

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

**Staff Present:** 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, March 29, 2017 in Meeting Room 2. Dylan Kreis reported that Alan Beebe contacted him to say that he is unable to attend. The meeting was called to order at 4:34 p.m.

- 1. Review of the February 22<sup>nd</sup> CROH Meeting Minutes:** Dylan Kreis asked if there were any changes or corrections regarding the Draft Minutes of the February 22<sup>nd</sup> CROH Meeting. There were no corrections. The minutes were accepted as written.
- 2. Additions/Changes to the Agenda:** Dylan Kreis asked if there are any additions or changes to the agenda. Matt Osborn responded that he had a number of items that he would like to report on at the end of the meeting. The Committee agreed.
- 3. 2016 Resilience Week Videos:** Laura Simon reported that CATV has three videos available from Resilience Week. A link is provided to access them. Matt Osborn agreed to pursue posting the link on the CROH webpage. Laura stated that she was not sure of the status of other videos and will inquire with CATV.
- 4. Resilience Week 2017:** Dylan Kreis started by suggesting that we identify goals for Resilience Week. The Committee agreed to the following:
  - Community Building
  - Education for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Challenges
  - Building Resilience Skills

There was discussion about a possible theme for Resilience Week. Simon Dennis suggested “Strong Communities Bounce”. Jon Bouton suggested adding “Back” following “Bounce”. It was agreed to continue discussion at the April meeting.

There was discussion about workshop topics. It became clear that a week-long event limits the number of workshops. Dylan Kreis suggested considering a longer event similar to the Bethel University month-long event in March after 2017. For Resilience Week 2017, the Committee agreed on the following list of workshops to consider:

- Introduction to Resilience/Possible Panel Discussion (Monday evening)
- Community Forums on Resilience facilitated by CROH Vermont (Friday evening & Saturday morning)
- Climate Change (Where are we now?)
- Show the documentary film “How to Let Go of the World and Love All the Things that Climate Can’t Change”

- Mitigating Climate Change with Water Cycles and Soil
- Emergency Preparedness/Public Safety
- Recruiting for Neighborhood Groups
- Forests and Resilience
- Flood Resilience & Buffers
- Event focused on finding neighborhood leaders
- Skill Share topics such as small engine repair, tool sharpening, bread baking, basic bike repair, tree pruning.

Dylan Kreis noted that we need to start assigning tasks at the next CROH Meeting. He asked members to think about tasks that they would be willing to help out. The Committee agreed.

- 5. Leahy Center Environmental Summit:** Matt Osborn reported that he attended the two-day Environmental Summit in Burlington on resilience and water quality. Matt participated in the Ottauquechee River Watershed Team planning for the High Meadows Fund grant that is due June 1<sup>st</sup>. He noted that the Summit was very good and the Ottauquechee team was productive. Other team members included Michael Storace of Two Rivers-Ottawuechee Regional Commission, Larry Kasden of the Ottauquechee Natural Resource Conservation District, Stephanie Kyriazis of the Marsh Billings Rockefeller National Park, Todd Menees of the Vermont Rivers Program and Ron Rhodes of the Connecticut River Watershed Council.
- 6. Annual Vermont Resilience Summit:** Matt Osborn reported that the Annual Resilience Summit at Norwich University is scheduled for Saturday, April 29<sup>th</sup>. It will be a one-day event ending in mid-afternoon. Matt distributed a preliminary agenda. He noted that the event will serve as the annual CRO Vermont gathering and hoped CROH members will attend. Matt will provide registration information once he receives the information. Dylan Kreis reported that he was asked to participate in a panel discussion at the event. Matt offered to help Dylan with the presentation.
- 7. New England Grass Roots Environmental Fund:** Matt Osborn reported that Lori Hirshfield provided him with information on the New England Grass Roots Environmental Fund grant that could be used to help defray costs of Resilience Week activities. The application is April 15<sup>th</sup>. Matt agreed to look into it.
- 8. Planning Commission Representative to CROH:** Matt Osborn reported that John Reid volunteered to serve as the Planning Commission representative to CROH. He is replacing Rich Kozlowski who stepped down from the Planning Commission in 2016.
- 9. CRO Vermont Executive Director:** Dylan Kreis reported that CRO Vermont hired a part-time executive director, Mindy Blank. Dylan noted that Mindy graduated from the Vermont Law School Environmental Law Program.
- 10. Next Meeting:** Dylan Kreis noted that the next meeting is scheduled for April 26<sup>th</sup>.
- 11. Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 6:06 p.m.