

**Draft Minutes of  
Resilient Hartford: A Community Resilience Organization  
January 22, 2020**

**Members Present:** Kye Cochran, Frederica Graham, Dylan Kreis, Jack Spicer and chair Paige Heverly.

**Liaison Members Present:** John Reid, Planning Commission and Simon Dennis, Selectboard.

**Staff Present:** Matt Osborn, Town Planner.

**Others Present:** Erik Krauss, Energy Commission Chair.

A meeting of Resilient Hartford was held at the Hartford Town Hall, 171 Bridge Street, WRJ, Vermont on Wednesday, January 22, 2020 in Room 312. Chair Paige Heverly called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.

- 1. Additions/Changes to the Agenda:** Paige Heverly asked if there are any additions/changes to the agenda. Kye Cochran requested that Potato Fest be added to the agenda. Matt Osborn requested adding Coffee with Committees. The Committee agreed.
- 2. Announcements:** Kye Cochran reported that she will be leaving the meeting early in order to attend the Resilience Hubs meeting in South Royalton.
- 3. Minutes of the December 4, 2019 Resilient Hartford Meeting:** Paige Heverly noted a correction to the draft minutes of December 4<sup>th</sup>. She asked if there are any other changes. Being none, Paige stated that the minutes are accepted with the noted correction.
- 4. Window Dressers:** Erik Krauss, chair of the Energy Commission was present to discuss the Window Dressers, a community collaboration to produce window inserts for energy savings. Window Dressers is a non-profit organization in Rockland, Maine. The Hartford Energy Commission will be a host community. They are seeking a partnership with Resilient Hartford. Erik stated that Thetford and Strafford as well as several other Vermont communities have joined the effort. Erik reported that he participated in a Window Dressers workshop in Thetford recently. He noted that Window Dressers has a strong community building component. The Energy Commission is considering grants to assist low-income households in obtaining the window inserts. Paige Heverly stated that CROH will have to see where Window Dressers would fit in with Resilient Hartford priorities. It was agreed to continue the discussion at the February 26<sup>th</sup> CROH meeting.
- 5. Potato Fest Committee:** Kye Cochran suggested forming a committee to work on preparations for the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Potato Fest in September. Kye noted that in 2020, Resilient Hartford will be challenging other towns. Kye agreed to chair the committee. Paige Heverly and Frederica Graham volunteered to serve on it.
- 6. Coffee with Committees:** Paige Heverly reported that town commissions have been invited to participate in the Coffee with Committees prior to the Town Meeting on Saturday, February 29<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. Paige and Frederica Graham volunteered to staff the Resilient Hartford table. Erik Krauss noted that he is requesting that Town commissions have been asked to provide climate emergency information at their table. Resilient Hartford agreed.
- 7. Climate Emergency Declaration:** Jack Spicer reported that the School Board and Selectboard adopted the Climate Emergency Declaration. Copies were distributed. In addition, the Selectboard completed the draft language for the Town Meeting ballot in March which is being reviewed by the Town attorney. The language is “shall the operation, development, and maintenance of the Town of

Hartford (and, with approval, the Town of Hartford School District's) municipal infrastructure and equipment be required to achieve carbon neutrality by 2027." Simon Dennis noted that the Selectboard was unanimous in approving both items. He also noted that the Selectboard approved allocating \$30,000 for a Climate Action Plan. The Plan is expected to be completed this fall and could lead to ballot items for Town Meeting 2021. Simon noted that the commitment to the 2027 carbon neutrality will be challenging. John Reid noted that the Planning Commission reaction was how are people going to afford it? Erik Krauss responded build a culture. Paige Heverly asked how to get the word out about the ballot item? Erik responded that he is working on a frequently asked questions sheet. In addition, there will be upcoming town meetings where there will be discussion about the ballot item.

- 8. Extreme Event Game:** Paige Heverly reported that CROH agreed to reschedule the Extreme Event Game to Monday, January 27<sup>th</sup> at the Bugbee Senior Center at 6:30 p.m. Matt noted that to date 14 have sent him an RSVP to attend. He noted that it is lower than the 29 registered for the November 18<sup>th</sup> event, but more could RSVP in the coming days. He encouraged CROH members to send personal invitations to those that might be interested in attending. He asked the Commission if he should place an ad in the Valley News about the event. CROH agreed to place an ad this weekend.
- 9. Hazard Mitigation Plan:** Paige Heverly reported that a Request for Proposals was released in December for the project and the Town received two proposals. A committee comprised of Dylan Kreis, John Reid, Lori Hirshfield, Matt Osborn and Paige reviewed the proposals prior to this meeting and agreed to interview both consultants next week.
- 10. Resilient Hartford Bylaws:** Matt Osborn noted that the current Resilient Hartford Bylaws require residency. He suggested a revision that would allow folks who work in Hartford or have specific credentials to serve on the Commission. Matt noted that the Hartford Historic Preservation Commission Bylaws state that a majority of members must be residents. There was discussion about adding that requirement, but consensus to keep the following language proposed by staff: "The Resilient Hartford shall consist of seven members appointed by the Selectboard. Each member shall be a resident of Hartford, work for an agency or business in Hartford or have specific training or expertise in community resilience." It was agreed to have a formal vote on the item at the February 26<sup>th</sup> meeting. There also was discussion and consensus that Selectboard approval of the bylaws should be required.
- 11. Alternative Uses to Town Parks:** Simon Dennis noted that he thinks climate migration will occur in the future and he would like the Town to look at semi-permanent housing options and plan for it. Paige Heverly reported that she has been in touch with the University of Vermont and Sterling College about involving students in the design of alternative uses for Hartford's parks. She noted that it will start with Ratcliffe Park and Clifford Park. Dylan Kreis noted that it will be a multi-phase process and any plans will have to be presented to the public and ultimately approved by the Parks & Recreation Department and the Selectboard. Paige asked Matt Osborn to check the status of CROH grant funds and the possibility of using funds for a travel stipend. Matt agreed to look into it.
- 12. Resilient Hartford Openings:** Paige Heverly noted that there is still one Resilient Hartford opening.
- 13. Next Meeting:** Paige Heverly noted that next Resilient Hartford meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 26<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m.
- 14. Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 6:42 p.m.