

**Draft Minutes of
Resilient Hartford: A Community Resilience Organization
February 26, 2020**

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

Liaison Members Present: Niki Thran, Energy Commission and Simon Dennis, Selectboard.

Staff Present: Matt Osborn, Town Planner.

Others Present: Becky Chollet and Niki Boyle.

A meeting of Resilient Hartford was held at the Hartford Town Hall, 171 Bridge Street, WRJ, Vermont on Wednesday, February 26, 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 requested that the Town Communication Survey be added to the agenda. She asked if there are any other additions/changes to the agenda. There were none. The Commission agreed.
2. **Minutes of the January 22, 2020 Resilient Hartford Meeting:** Paige Heverly asked if there were changes to the draft minutes of January 22nd. Dylan Kreis requested an addition to the discussion on the Bylaw changes. There were no other changes. Paige stated that the minutes are accepted with the noted addition.
3. **Extreme Event Game:** Paige Heverly reported that there was a great turnout at the January 27th Extreme Event Game at the Bugbee Senior Center and there were many new faces. She noted that there was interest in the neighborhood group idea. Kye Cochran noted that she has been participating in a neighborhood group in West Hartford. Becky Chollet reported that the Jericho area also has a neighborhood group that has existed for many years. The Jericho Community Association meets regularly at the Jericho Schoolhouse. Paige noted that the Resilient Hartford should work on expanding neighborhood groups throughout Hartford. The Commission agreed.
4. **Town Communications Survey:** Hartford resident Becky Chollet was present to request that Resilient Hartford consider conducting a town communications survey to better understand how people obtain information about Town business and events and how to improve communications. Becky suggested distributing the survey during the upcoming town meeting and voting day. There was discussion and interest in pursuing. Matt Osborn noted that if it is a town-sanctioned survey, there is a process to get it approved. He suggested taking the necessary time to gather input from other departments, town manager and possibly the Selectboard if they have interest. Resilient Hartford agreed to pursue the survey. Niki Boyle and Simon Dennis volunteered to work with Becky and Matt on the survey.
5. **Resilient Hartford Bylaws:** Matt Osborn noted that this item is a continuation of the discussion last month. The current Resilient Hartford Bylaws require residency. He presented the proposed language. Dylan Kreis noted his preference for establishing a requirement that a majority of members be Hartford residents. The Commission agreed to the following language:

Under Section 3A., “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. A simple majority of members shall be Hartford residents.”

Under Section 8, “These bylaws may be amended by the Hartford Selectboard. Written notice of intent to adopt or amend these bylaws must be publicly posted, sent to each member of Resilient Hartford and to the Chair of the Selectboard at least fifteen (15) days prior to the meeting at which the proposed action is to be taken.”

Jack Spicer made a motion to approve the revisions to the Resilient Hartford Bylaws and present to the Hartford Selectboard for their approval. Dillon Kreis seconded the motion which was approved 4-0. The item will be scheduled for an upcoming Selectboard Meeting.

- 6. Resilient Hartford Budget and 2019 Grant Update:** Matt Osborn reported that there is \$1,142 remaining in the \$2,500 2019 CRO Vermont grant. Matt noted that no funds have been expended in the Resilient Hartford 2020 budget since the CRO Vermont grant has been used. He noted that the Resilient Hartford budget runs from 7/1/19 to 6/30/20. Funds that are not spent by 6/30 are returned to the General Fund and reassigned by the Selectboard. There was concern that not spending Resilient Hartford funds may affect next year’s budget. Simon Dennis agreed that it could affect the next budget. Paige Heverly requested that the \$300 for the Extreme Event Game be transferred back to the CRO Vermont grant balance. The commission agreed.
- 7. Resilience Hubs:** Kye Cochran reported that she attended a meeting on Resilience Hubs in South Royalton sponsored by Bale (Building a Local Economy”). She stated that it was well-attended. However, she does not think there is enough organization at this point to move forward with next steps. Paige Heverly noted that CRO Vermont helped fund the event. Paige will send out a step by step guide that was published on Resilience Hubs.
- 8. Climate Emergency Declaration:** Matt Osborn reported that there will be a warrant article on the March 3rd Australian ballot. Jack Spicer reported that the School Board and Selectboard adopted the Climate Emergency Declaration in December. Item #25 of the warrant article states that, “Shall the operation, development, and maintenance of the Town of Hartford municipal infrastructure and equipment be required to achieve carbon neutrality by 2027.” Jack noted that this followed the declaration and will give direction to the Selectboard as to whether the Town should lead by example. Simon Dennis noted that there will be a presentation on ballot item at the Town Meeting on Saturday, February 29th.
- 9. Potato Fest:** Paige Heverly reported that the Potato Fest Committee met recently and has begun planning for Potato Fest 2020. For the first Potato Fest in 2019, there was an inter-village competition in Hartford that was won by White River Junction. Paige noted that this year, there will be an inter-town competition. Towns will be invited to join the event. Paige would like to schedule a planning meeting with other towns in mid-April. Matt Osborn agreed to inquire about possible venues and dates.
- 10. Hazard Mitigation Plan Update:** Matt Osborn reported that that after reviewing proposals and interviewing consultants, the Town hired the Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee Regional Commission (TRORC) to update the 2014 Hartford Mitigation Plan. Matt noted that Paige Heverly, Dylan Kreis and John Reid participated in the review of proposals. Matt distributed a timeline on the update. He noted that the existing Hazard Mitigation Plan is very thorough. The update and process will be more stream-lined, but we will have two community meetings and a meeting with the Selectboard. Matt noted that the first community meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 11th at 6:00 p.m. at the Hartford High School. The topic of the meeting will be a hazards ranking.

Matt also noted that TRORC has developed a draft survey for the Plan update to obtain public input. He distributed copies of the survey and asked for feedback. Discussion followed. There were several suggestions. Paige Heverly asked if Resilient Hartford members could have more time to review the survey. Matt responded that he committed to getting comments back to TRORC tomorrow. He requested that comments be sent to him by noon tomorrow. The Commission agreed.

- 11. Alternative Uses to Town Parks:** 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 Clifford and Ratcliffe Parks. Paige stated that the Schools suggested providing funds for a travel stipend to encourage students to participate given the distance from each school. Matt Osborn asked if there was a specific amount requested. Jack Spicer suggested providing mileage for two trips. The Commission agreed.
- 12. Resilient Hartford Appointment:** Matt Osborn reported that last night, the Selectboard appointed Marsha Autillo to the last remaining Resilient Hartford opening. Matt noted that Marsha attended the Extreme Event Game event. Simon Dennis noted that the interview with Marsha went very well.
- 13. Coffee with Committees:** Paige Heverly reported that Resilient Hartford will have a table at the Coffee with Committees prior to the Town Meeting on Saturday, February 29th at 9:00 a.m. Paige noted that Frederica Graham is unable to staff the booth with her and asked for another volunteer. Becky Chollet agreed to help. Matt Osborn agreed to put together CROH materials for the event.
- 14. Next Meeting:** Paige Heverly noted that next Resilient Hartford meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 25th at 5:00 p.m. Simon Dennis requested that the Coronavirus be added to the agenda. The Commission agreed.
- 15. Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 6:36 p.m.