

**Draft Minutes of the
Resilient Hartford Meeting
March 22, 2023**

Resilient Hartford Members Present: Earl Hatley (4/4/25), Carolyn Hooper (10/17/25), Dylan Kreis (11/30/23), Laura Simon (11/30/23) and chair Kye Cochran (11/30/23).

Resilient Hartford Liaison Members Present: Planning Commission Liaison John Reid and Selectboard Liaison Ally Tufenkjian.

Staff Present: Matt Osborn, Town Planner.

Others Present: None.

A hybrid Resilient Hartford Meeting was held on Wednesday, March 22nd. Chair Kye Cochran called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. She read the script for hybrid meetings followed by a roll call.

1. **Minutes of February 22nd:** Kye asked if there are any corrections to the Minutes of February 22nd. Being none, she stated that the Minutes of February 22nd are approved as written.
2. **Public Comments:** Kye asked if there are any public comments. There were none.
3. **Food Forest Update:** Kye reported that she is preparing a second letter to the Food Forest Google Group asking folks to consider signing up for one of the five teams.

Kye reported that she met with West Hartford resident Laura Brooks who is working with a group of volunteers who want to discuss various issues and hold events in West Hartford as a way of building community. She would like to hold a barbecue at Clifford Park and invite neighbors to learn more about the Food Forest. Kye noted that she really likes the idea and will discuss it with the Food Forest Committee.

Dylan Kreis reported that this afternoon, Matt Osborn and he met with Jeff Acker, owner of H.P. Roofing at Clifford Park to look at installing a gutter system on the barn that will connect to storage tanks inside the barn to use for irrigation. Jeff is willing to donate materials and labor for the job this spring.

Kye reported that the next Food Forest Committee Meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 29th at 5:00 p.m. via Zoom. Matt will reserve a meeting room for those who want to attend in-person.

4. **Quechee Abenaki Garden Update:** Earl reported that he will be meeting with the Quechee Lakes Landowners Association Board on Friday to discuss the project and Earl's plans for the site. He noted that he is optimistic that they can work out an agreement. Earl noted that he is a little behind schedule and that he had hoped to start work in April. He added that he has a lot of volunteer support in Quechee. Kye and Dylan volunteered to work with Earl.
5. **Wilder School Project:** Carolyn Hooper reported that the effort to develop a low maintenance food forest at the Wilder School (School) is progressing faster than envisioned. She is working with Principal Doug Heavisides on layout, specific plants and the school's goals for the project. The next step is to go before the School Board. Carolyn noted that she will be taking a wild garden class this spring. She noted that Doug believes he has some funding to start the project.
6. **Hartford Home Garden Cart Project:** Kye reported that she came up with an idea about teaching residents gardening skills that she wanted to share with RH. She described the following concept:

Purpose: To build food resilience in Hartford by providing services to help beginning gardeners to establish home gardens.

Services:

* Site visits to residents by experienced gardeners, to identify suitable garden spaces and give advice to beginning gardeners.

*A traveling information wagon with:

- Gardening tools;
- Samples of rich garden soil, mulch, compost, and compost tea; and
- Information sheets geared to the Hartford area and focusing on soil health/enrichment, soil testing, water capture and use, garden placement, possible garden types, mulch, compost, where to purchase seeds, etc.

* A library of good gardening books for loan.

* A follow-up phone call/email, connecting folks with questions to experienced gardeners.

* Presentations and discussions on seed saving, wild edibles and medicinal plants, raised garden beds, fruit and nut trees, etc.

Concept:

Kye envisions building a trailer, outfitted to have displays and information, painted colorfully and brightly to attract attention.

Resilient Hartford would do outreach (listservs, posters, word of mouth) and when a neighborhood expressed an interest, the trailer would be brought to that neighborhood for a week or so (library, co-op, post office area, other host) and people interested in having a garden, but inexperienced, could visit the trailer, book a site visit to their home, talk with experienced gardeners. The trailer could also be present at events such as the Hartford Community Coalition Block Party, a possible Harvest Fair at the Clifford Park Food Forest, etc.

Laura Simon stated that she really likes the idea but noted that the trailer has to be housed somewhere, a system for scheduling would have to be developed and it would have to be sustainable. She suggested talking to Vital Communities. Dylan also liked the concept and suggested building into what we are already doing at Clifford Park and use the site to showcase. Carolyn likes the idea and sees it as a way to reach young families. Kye asked RH to think about it and continue the discussion at a future meeting. She concluded by noting that she doesn't see this as an immediate project.

7. Resilient Hartford Openings: Kye reported that there are currently two openings on RH. She agreed to post a notice on the Hartford List Serv. Dylan agreed to review Kye's draft. Dylan noted that he spoke to a friend who is interested in applying. Kye agreed to post a notice on the U.V. Food Co-op Bulletin Board.

8. Announcements:

a. Vermont Arbor Day Conference: Matt reported that the Vermont Arbor Day Conference will be held in Randolph on May 19th. He noted that one of the sessions is a Fruit and Nut Tree Panel. He stated that there is money in the budget to pay for registration fee for an RH member.

b. Energize Upper Valley: Laura Simon reported that the Energy Commissions of the Upper Valley collaborated to sponsor Energize Upper Valley at the Listen Center on Maple Street that will include a demonstration of electric vehicles and e-bikes at the Town Hall on Saturday, April 1st between 11-3.

9. Next RH Meeting: Kye noted that the next RH meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 26th.

10. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.