

**Draft Minutes of the  
Resilient Hartford Clifford Park Food Forest Committee Meeting  
March 29, 2023**

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

**Resilient Hartford Liaison Members Present:** None.

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

**Others Present:** Maya Beauvineau, Cat Buxton, Andrew Deaett, Ruth Fleishman and Karen Ganey.

A hybrid Resilient Hartford Clifford Park Food Forest Committee Meeting was held on Wednesday, March 29<sup>th</sup>. Chair Kye Cochran called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m. She read the script for hybrid meetings followed by a roll call.

**1. Food Forest Teams:** Kye went through the descriptions of the five Food Forest teams that were formed:

- **Water Team:** Carry out the weekly watering needs. It was agreed to monitor the weather and determine when to start watering.
- **Growing Team:** In charge of building soil, planning garden design, planting, calculating the timing of crops, and all-around care of the soil and plants.
- **Outreach Team:** Recruit volunteers, plan events and work on educational opportunities.
- **Infrastructure Team:** In charge of fencing, water collection system, signs and storage.
- **Fundraising Team:** Research grant opportunities, apply for grants and look into other methods of securing needed funds.

Ruth stated that the idea is the list of team members represents the team leaders that will organize and determine what needs to be done and that others will be invited to assist when needed. She suggested that each team develop a description of their work. Matt went through the list of team members and there was discussion about the work of each team.

- **Water Team:** Laura, Andrew, Kye & Katie. It was agreed to monitor the weather and figure out when watering needs to begin. It was mentioned that since there are no plans to plant new trees this year, there will be less watering needs than last year.
- **Growing Team:** Earl, Maya, Ruth, Cat & Karen. It was agreed that after the snow melts, the team will inspect the food forest and determine next steps. Cat stated that this year, there will be lots of experimenting to build the soil.
- **Outreach Team:** John, Maya & Kye. Maya noted that she is a Dartmouth freshman and can assist in reaching out to Dartmouth students to help out. Matt noted that John is a Quechee Lakes Landowners Association who can mobilize volunteers from Quechee.
- **Infrastructure Team:** Dylan & Matt. Matt reported that last week, Dylan and Matt met with Jeff Acker of HP Roofing at Clifford Park to discuss the installation of rain gutters on the east side of the barn which will feed into the barn where there will be two water tanks. HP Roofing has agreed to donate materials and labor for the gutter system. The work will be done sometime this spring. Matt noted that he will coordinate with Dylan and purchase a pump and accessories such as a hose to run to the trees and Abenaki garden for watering.
- **Fundraising Team:** Laura, Matt & Carolyn. Carolyn offered to help. Karen suggested that before we apply for grants, we need to develop a work plan for the next phase of the Food

Forest. The Committee agreed. Cat noted that the Upper Valley Resilience Network (UVRN) that formed through a Ottauquechee Natural Resource Conservation District program and administered through Vital Communities, includes the Clifford Park Food Forest. Apple Corps received an \$800 mini-grant through the UVRN that goes along with the \$1,400 Apple Corps received from a Building a Local Economy (BALE) grant to go toward hiring a coordinator.

2. **Cover Crop Seeds:** Ruth asked if we should be purchasing organic or conventional seeds. The Committee agreed to purchase organic seeds if available. Carolyn suggested considering providing the community with seeds if extras are available. Andrew liked the idea. Ruth suggested purchasing two more galvanized trash barrels to store seeds in the barn in order to protect the seeds from rodents. The Committee agreed.
3. **West Hartford Event Planning Committee:** 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. They would like to hold a barbecue at Clifford Park on Tuesday, August 8 and invite neighbors to learn more about the Food Forest. The Committee agreed to participate in the event.
4. **Schedule the First Work Party:** It was agreed that once the snow melts, the Growing Team will inspect the fruit and nut trees, determine next steps and schedule the first work party.
5. **Adjournment:** Kye thanked everyone for attending the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 5:55 p.m.