

**Approved Meeting Notes of the
Resilient Hartford Meeting
April 26, 2023**

Resilient Hartford Members Present: Carolyn Hooper (10/17/25) and vice-chair Dylan Kreis (11/30/23).

Resilient Hartford Liaison Members Present: None.

Staff Present: Matt Osborn, Town Planner.

Others Present: Melinda Brooks.

A hybrid Resilient Hartford Meeting was held on Wednesday, April 26th. Vice-chair Dylan Kreis called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m. He read the script for hybrid meetings followed by a roll call and introductions.

1. **Minutes of March 22nd:** Since there was not a quorum, no action was taken on the Minutes of March 22nd.
2. **Public Comments:** Dylan asked if there are any public comments. There were none.
3. **Food Forest Update:** Matt Osborn reported that he has been working with Jeff Acker, owner of H.P. Roofing who is donating time and materials to install a rain gutter system on the barn that will connect to storage tanks inside the barn to use for irrigation. Jeff hopes to work on the project next week. Matt has been in contact with the Hartford Department of Public Works to see if they have a spare water tank that could supplement the existing water tank and be used for the Clifford Park Food Forest. Matt reported that he purchased seeds and two trash barrels for seed storage recently for the Food Forest. Additional seed is on back-order. Matt stated that the Growing Team was meeting this week. They will be planning a spring work outing in the coming weeks. Matt suggested that once the gutters have been installed, we should purchase a gas pump, hose and accessories to water the trees and their guilds. Currently, there is \$1,432 remaining in the RH budget that must be spent by the end of June.
4. **Quechee Abenaki Garden Update:** Matt reported that he spoke with Quechee Lakes Landowner's Association President Brian Kelley last month. Brian is working with Earl Hatley on the Abenaki Garden Project. Matt noted that Brian was optimistic that they can work out an agreement.
5. **Wilder School Project:** Carolyn Hooper reported that she continues to work with Principal H. Heavisides on the school food forest project. She noted that one side of the property will be planted with edibles (trees and berry bushes) and the other side will have a native forest species with pollinator species. H. Heavisides will be going to the School Board to discuss the project. Carolyn noted that they hope to have a design for the food forest by the end of June. Carolyn reported that the wild garden class that she is taking has been excellent. However, it has shed light on several serious issues/threats facing gardeners in the Upper Valley including invasive jumping worms, Neonicotinoids, and pesticides found in compost. Neonicotinoids are a group of insecticides used widely on farms, nurseries and in urban landscapes. They are absorbed by plants and can be present in pollen. Carolyn stated that this information is discouraging but it emphasizes how important it is with sourcing plants. In order to avoid these threats, it may delay planting of the food forest.

- 6. Resilient Hartford Openings:** Dylan reported that there are currently two openings on RH. He noted that Melinda Brooks who is in attendance this evening has expressed an interest in applying to serve on RH. Carolyn asked if the openings have been advertised. Matt responded that the Town is currently working on a policy on advertising openings on Town commissions.
- 7. Announcements:**
 - a. Invasive Jumping Worm Workshop: Carolyn reported that gardening expert Henry Homemeyer is hosting a workshop on dealing with the invasive jumping worm on Saturday, May 6th.
- 9. Next RH Meeting:** Dylan noted that the next RH meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 24th.
- 10. Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m.
- 11. Date RH Member Terms Expire:** Laura Simon (11/30/23). Carolyn Hooper (10/17/25) Earl Hatley (4/4/25), chair Kye Cochran (11/30/23) vice-chair Dylan Kreis (11/30/23),