

**Approved Meeting Notes of the
Resilient Hartford Meeting
May 24, 2023**

Resilient Hartford Members Present: Earl Hatley (4/4/25) and vice-chair Dylan Kreis (11/30/23).

Resilient Hartford Liaison Members Present: Lynn Bohi (Energy Commission), John Reid (Planning Commission) and Ally Tufenjkian (Selectboard).

Staff Present: Matt Osborn, Town Planner.

Others Present:

A hybrid Resilient Hartford Meeting was held on Wednesday, May 24th. 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.

1. **Meeting Notes of April 26th:** Dylan asked if there were any comments regarding the meeting notes of the April 26th meeting. Since there were no corrections, the meeting notes of April 26th were accepted.
2. **Public Comments:** Dylan asked if there are any public comments. There were none.
3. **Food Forest Update:** Earl reported that two workdays were held on May 20th and May 21st. Saturday focused on tilling and planting cover crops on the two large islands around the fruit tree guilds. On Sunday, there were enough volunteers for two work crews. One crew focused on finishing planting cover crops for the guilds and tilling an area for a blueberry patch to be planted in the fall. The other crew focused on tilling the Abenaki Garden, planting cover crops and starting a hugel mound. The hugel mound is similar to historic Abenaki use of abandoned beaver dams for gardens. The mound system utilizes decomposing tree branches to create fertile soil. Earl noted that a mound of good soil was discovered near the Abenaki Garden that will help supplement the existing poor Clifford Park soil. He added that due to being in a flood zone, there are restrictions on bringing in materials such as soil and compost. Matt noted that there were seven volunteers on Saturday and 14 volunteers on Sunday. He noted that the weekend weather cooperated with nice conditions during both workdays with rain falling late day Saturday and overnight.

Matt reported that H.P. Roofing completed installation of a rain gutter system on the east side of the barn two weeks ago. The gutter downspout connects to storage tanks inside the barn to use for irrigation. Matt reported that the Hartford Department of Public Works has a 1,000-gallon tank that they can donate to RH for the Food Forest and Abenaki Garden. At this time, DPW is short-staffed and is too busy to deliver and set up. As a result, we will have to rely on the existing 275-gallon tank.

Matt reported that he requested a 25% price reduction for the Food Forest Project from Gardner's Supply. He is hoping to obtain a garden cart to move supplies from the barn to the Abenaki Garden and Food Forest.

Dylan noted that the planned pump and accessories to pump the water from the barn to the Abenaki Garden and Food Forest will cost in the range of \$2,500. John suggested seeking permission to pay for it over two fiscal year budgets since it exceeds the amount of the entire RH annual budget.

Matt reported that monthly workdays have been proposed by the Food Forest Growing Team. A date for the June workday has not been set.

4. **Quechee Abenaki Garden Update:** Earl reported that a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Ottawaquechee Water Protection Association and the Quechee Lakes Landowners Association (QLLA) is being developed by the QLLA Diversity Equity and Inclusion Council. The MOU will allow the Abenaki Garden on QLLA property. He noted that a mediator has been assisting in the process. He hopes to have a final decision soon. Earl noted that a food forest component is not part of the MOU at this time.
5. **Wilder School Project:** Matt reported that Carolyn informed him that she is waiting to hear back from Principal Heavisides on the School Board's response to the proposal. Once approval is granted, she will begin work on the formal design and implementation plan.
6. **Resilient Hartford Openings:** Dylan reported that Melinda Brooks who had expressed an interest in applying to serve on RH has taken a new job and is no longer able to serve on RH. Therefore there are still two current openings. Matt noted that there is one application pending approval of the Selectboard. Ally reported that the Selectboard has developed policies on vacancy notification on Town committee/commission openings as well as committee/commission appointments. Action is expected soon. John asked if there will be a delay in appointing new members. Ally responded that the intent is to have a 30 day application process.
7. **Announcements:**
 - a. Hartford Community Coalition Block Party: Matt reported that the annual Block Party at Lyman Point Park is scheduled for Wednesday, June 21st from 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. He noted that RH normally has a table at the event. Dylan volunteered to help staff the table.
 - b. Tree Grants: Matt reported that he was contacted by Gaal Shepherd Crowl of the Hartford Tree Board about federal funding that was recently announced to purchase fruit and nut trees. Matt sees benefits of a partnership between RH and the Tree Board.
 - c. Styrofoam Recycling Initiative: John reported that there is a Styrofoam recycling initiative underway in New Hampshire and Vermont. He asked what Town commission would be the primary contact to convey information about it. Matt responded the Conservation Commission but thought other commissions might be interested as well.
8. **Next RH Meeting:** Dylan noted that the next RH meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 28th. Matt noted that the meeting location for summer meetings will move to Room 2 on the first floor.
9. **Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.
10. **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),