

**Approved Minutes of
Resilient Hartford: A Community Resilience Organization
May 27, 2020**

Members Present: Marsha Autilio, Kye Cochran, Frederica Graham, Dylan Kreis, Laura Simon, and Chair Jack Spicer.

Liaison Members Present: Niki Thran, Energy Commission and John Reid, Planning Commission

Staff Present: Matt Osborn, Town Planner.

Others Present: None.

A remote meeting of Resilient Hartford in compliance with the Vermont Open Meeting Law was held on Wednesday, May 27, 2020. Chair Jack Spicer called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m. He read the “remote public meeting script” developed by the Vermont League of Cities and Towns.

1. **Additions/Changes to the Agenda:** Jack Spicer asked if there are any additions/changes to the agenda. There were none.
2. **Minutes of the April 22, 2020 Resilient Hartford Meeting:** Jack Spicer asked if there are any changes to the draft minutes of April 22nd. Marsha Autilio noted a correction. There were no other changes. Dylan Kreis made a motion to accept the Draft Minutes of April 22nd with the noted correction. The motion was seconded by Laura Simon and approved by a 6 to 0 vote.
3. **Raspberry Revolution Park:** Jack Spicer reported that due to COVID-19 and the uncertainty of the impact on construction and schedules, there was a communication breakdown about when construction would begin on the vacant lot across from the Trail Break Restaurant that was home of Raspberry Revolution Park. Jack noted that he walked by the site recently and excavation was underway. He spoke to the site manager about the agreement to save the apple trees and raspberry bushes. The site manager was unaware of the agreement and one apple tree was already destroyed. The manager agreed to save the other apple tree and the raspberry plants. Unfortunately, and the second tree was badly damaged trying to move it. The raspberry bushes were able to be moved to the community garden at Ratcliffe Park as a temporary location. Jack noted that the plants look fine in their new home. He thanked Tim McCosker, Simon Dennis and Laura Simon for helping with the relocation. Jack noted that Apple Corps will work with the Town for a permanent home for the raspberries.

There was discussion about the use of herbicides and pesticides at Ratcliffe Park and other Town parks. Recently, two ducks died at Ratcliffe Park and there was concern that herbicides and pesticides may have had something to do with it. Dylan Kreis responded that there is no way to know for sure unless you do an autopsy on the ducks. Dylan noted that the cost of organic herbicides and pesticides is extremely expensive and the current economic climate make it cost prohibitive.

4. **Neighborhood Networks:** Jack Spicer reported that the Food Subgroup of the Hartford Coronavirus Committee was interested in a possible collaboration with Resilient Hartford (RH) looking at developing neighborhood networks in Hartford. Jack attended Food Subgroup committee meetings. After considering it, the idea was scrapped since the opportunity may have been missed, privacy issues of health information and the lack of masks for volunteers. Jack also noted that there are serious gaps in knowledge about folks in town.

There was discussion about the Coronavirus Committee and concern that no one from RH was on the Committee. The Committee was formed by the Selectboard and four sub-groups were established.

Matt Osborn noted that he sent out an e-mail back in March to RH inviting members to apply. Simon Dennis, Selectboard Liaison to RH, serves on the Committee.

Dylan Kreis suggested that RH take a close look at the mission statement and prioritize its upcoming work. Jack read the mission statement. Dylan suggested revisioning to pick something impactful. Jack responded that RH did that several months ago and decided to pursue food security and look at using town parks as a way to increase food production. RH agreed that this should be a major focus of their work. RH also agreed to form a committee and develop a plan. Kye Cochran, Frederica Graham and Marsh Autilio volunteered. It was agreed to reach out to Karen Ganey and that the Committee would develop something for RH to review by the middle of June.

- 5. Hazard Mitigation Plan Update:** Matt Osborn reported that since the 4/22 RH meeting, there was a Hazard Mitigation Plan Committee meeting on April 29th to prioritize hazards and look at the Action Plan. Also, Kevin Geiger of the Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee Regional Commission (TRORC) gave a presentation before the Selectboard on the Hazard Mitigation Plan on May 19th. Matt noted that the 2014 HM Plan was a very comprehensive and detailed Plan and the current effort is a modest update. TRORC will revise the draft and distribute to the Resilient Hartford and Selectboard next week. The Selectboard will be discussing the Draft Plan at their June 9th meeting.
- 6. Potato Fest:** Kye Cochran noted that with COVID-19, she feels there is no choice but to cancel the September event. Summer and fall festivals throughout Vermont have been cancelled. She stated that with all of the attention given to backyard gardening this year, she expects that there will be a great deal of interest for the event in 2021. The Commission agreed. Frederica Graham made a motion to table Potato Fest until 2021. Kye Cochran seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.
- 7. Resilient Hartford Opening:** Jack Spicer reported that there is a Resilient Hartford opening. He will follow-up with a potential member that had attended a previous RH meeting.
- 8. Next Meeting:** Jack Spicer noted that next Resilient Hartford meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 24th at 5:00 p.m.
- 9. Announcements:**
 - a. Covid-19: Dylan Kreis noted that he is pleased with the way Vermont has responded to reduce the spread of Covid-19. The Commission agreed.
 - b. Energy Commission Chair Erik Krauss: Niki Thran reported that Chair Erik Krauss is stepping down as chair of the Energy Commission. Erik was recently elected chair of the Climate Action Committee.
 - c. Climate Action Request for Proposals: Jack Spicer reported that the Climate Action Committee is working on a Request for Proposals to hire a consultant to help with the plan to get to net-zero by 2030.
- 10. Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 6:33 p.m.