

**Draft Minutes of
Resilient Hartford: A Community Resilience Organization
July 22, 2020**

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

Liaison Members Present: John Reid, Planning Commission and Simon Dennis, Selectboard.

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, July 22, 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. Jack reported that Jon Bouton e-mailed to say he is unable to make the meeting. Jack welcomed new RH member Marcia Gauvin. Introductions were made. Dylan Kreis provided a brief history of

1. **Additions/Changes to the Agenda:** Jack Spicer asked if he could add the Community Food Forest Handbook to the agenda. The Commission agreed. He asked if there are any other additions/changes to the agenda. There were none.
2. **Minutes of the June 24, 2020 Resilient Hartford Meeting:** Jack Spicer asked if there are any changes to the draft minutes of the RH meeting of June 24th. There were no changes. Jack Spicer said the minutes are approved by unanimous consent.
3. **Community Food Forest Handbook:** Kye Cochran reported that book publisher Chelsea Green donated a copy of the “Community Food Forest Handbook” by Catherine Bukowski and John Munsell to Resilient Hartford and offered to sell copies to RH members for half price. Kye noted that the book has some really interesting ideas. Matt Osborn noted the current town spending freeze, but stated that RH has a Community Resilience Organization (CRO Vermont) grant that could be used to purchase the books. Dylan Kreis offered to purchase a book for any RH member that would like one. RH members thanked Dylan for his generosity.
4. **Alternative Uses to Town Parks (Food Production):** Frederica Graham reported that Resilient Hartford (RH) is looking at alternative uses to two Town parks (Ratcliffe & Clifford) with an emphasis on food production. As a way to encourage public awareness and gain public input, the RH Committee on Alternative Uses to Parks has developed a draft survey. The Committee consists of RH members Kye Cochran, Frederica Graham and Marsha Autilio. Marcia Gauvin proceeded to read the draft survey. Discussion followed. Marsha Autilio stated that it is important to keep the survey as brief as possible. Dylan Kreis stated that once the draft survey is finalized, he will submit to Hartford Parks and Recreation Department Director Scott Hausler for his review and approval. Dylan also noted that the Parks and Recreation Department has experience with Survey Monkey. It was agreed that in addition to an on-line survey, hard copies should be provided at the libraries and Upper Valley Food Co-op, etc. The survey should be promoted on the Hartford List Serv, the RH e-mail list, Parks and Recreation Department e-mail list and Constant Contact. It was agreed that the Committee will meet to work on the draft survey in the next week and that Resilient Hartford will hold a special meeting on Wednesday, August 5th at 5:00 p.m. to finalize the draft.

Marsha Autilio expressed concern about moving forward on the project with the current spending freeze. Matt responded that there are remaining grant funds from the Community Resilience

Organization (CRO) Vermont grant RH received. He noted that CRO Vermont is aware of the alternative uses to parks effort and is supportive of the concept. He will seek their permission to use grant funds for this project. The Commission agreed.

Simon Dennis suggested a town farm as another alternative use to Town parks. Jack Spicer responded that Vermont has a history of town farms and poor houses. He will e-mail information to RH about it.

5. **Hazard Mitigation Plan Update:** Matt Osborn reported that the Draft Hazard Mitigation Plan was submitted to the Vermont Emergency Management Department (VEM) for their review. VEM completed their review and submitted comments back to the Town for revisions. Staff and the Two Rivers-Ottauquechee Regional Commission are currently working on the revisions and expect to submit the revisions back to VEM by the end of July. Once VEM approves the revisions, the Draft Plan will go back to the Selectboard for their formal approval. Matt estimates that the Selectboard will likely consider adoption sometime in September or October. Marcia Gauvin requested a copy of the Draft Plan. Matt agreed to e-mail the Plan to all Resilient Hartford members and liaisons.
6. **Resilient Hartford Opening:** Jack Spicer reminded RH that he will be moving to Tunbridge on September 1st and will be stepping down from RH. Kye Cochran praised Jack for his work as chair and said she was sorry to see him leave. Jack requested that RH members think about a candidate to fill the vacancy created by his upcoming departure. The Commission agreed.
7. **Announcements:**
 - a. Climate Action Advisory Committee: Jack Spicer reported that the Climate Action Advisory Committee has developed a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a town-wide Climate Action Plan that is primarily intended to address the town-wide goal of net-zero GHG emissions by 2030 and secondarily to achieve the carbon neutral municipal requirement. He noted that the Plan has a budget of \$30,000 and the RFP is located on the Town home page.
 - b. Energy Standards: Planning Commission liaison John Reid reported that the Planning Commission held a workshop this week on energy standards led by Town Energy Coordinator Geoff Martin. The Town is considering a higher-level energy standard for new residential construction and additions than the state minimum standard.
 - c. Coronavirus Committee: Simon Dennis reported that the Town Coronavirus Committee is also doing community resilience work. He noted that they are encouraging residents to sign up for VT Alert and that the Town will use VT Alert as a communication method during emergencies. He also reported that there is a new Town-sponsored small grant program for Hartford businesses related to the impact of the Coronavirus on small businesses.
8. **Next Meeting:** Jack Spicer noted that a special RH meeting is scheduled for August 5th. The next regular RH meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 26th at 5:00 p.m.
9. **Adjournment:** Frederica Graham made a motion to adjourn. It was seconded by Marsha Autilio and approved. The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.