

**Draft Minutes of the
Resilient Hartford Meeting
August 25, 2021**

Resilient Hartford Members Present: Marsha Autilio, Frederica Graham, Dylan Kreis, Leah Mosenthal, Laura Simon and Chair Kye Cochran.

Resilient Hartford Liaisons Members Present: Conservation Commission Liaison Jon Bouton, Planning Commission Liaison John Reid and Selectboard Liaison Ally Tufenkjian.

Others Present: Laura Brooks, Earl Hatley, and consultants Cat Buxton and Karen Gainey.

Staff Present: Matt Osborn, Town Planner.

A Resilient Hartford Meeting was held in Room 312 of the Hartford Town Hall, 171 Bridge Street, White River Junction, Vermont. Chair Kye Cochran called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.

1. **Resilient Hartford Minutes of July 28, 2021:** Kye Cochran asked if there are any changes to the draft minutes of July 28th. Being none, she stated that the minutes are accepted by unanimous consent.
2. **Review of the August 4th Design Workshop:** Kye Cochran reported that the 8/4 design workshop at the West Hartford Library went very well. The in-person workshop was attended by ten people. There was discussion about suitable species and guilds for a food forest. At the workshop, Karen discussed design concepts and tree species and synthesized a proposal for the 8/12 Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting.
3. **Review of the August 12th Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting:** Karen Ganey reported that the 8/12 Parks and Recreation Commission (PARC) Meeting went very well. Kye Cochran agreed and noted that Karen did an excellent job presenting the project and the PARC is very supportive. The following are topics that Karen covered with the PARC.
 - Land Acknowledgement
 - Timeline
 - Irene History
 - Community Mission
 - Design Process
 - Food Forest Concept
 - Community Collaborators
 - Maintenance & Long-term Care
 - Fundraising

Karen noted that the 1-7 trees with a keystone tree and guild is planned.

Matt Osborn asked if we need to go back to the PARC prior to the tree planting Karen responded no.

4. **Flood Regulations Update:** Cat Buxton reported that she spoke with Engineer Ann Kynor of Pathways Consulting. Ann is currently the engineer for the Town Hall Rain Garden Project that Cat is working on. The rain garden is located in the 100-year flood zone and was required to go through the permitting process. Cat stated that Pathway Consulting also did the permitting for the Post Irene recovery work in Clifford Park. Cat noted that she reviewed the application materials and she thinks Pathways did a very thorough job with the permitting. She also thinks that the work we are doing is consistent with the recommendations of the application. Cat stated that one of the benefits of the food forest is greater flood resilience. Matt stated that we will need to work with an engineer to address the Flood Regulations. He noted that he has spoken with Zoning Administrator Jo-Ann Ells and State Regional Floodplain Manager John Broker-Campbell and they agreed that the fall planting can commence as long as we remove as much material as we add for the

planting. We will have to hire an engineer to obtain approval for the multi-phase food forest. Cat wondered about possible exemptions. She asked about next steps. Matt Osborn suggested that we set up a site visit at Clifford Park with the engineer Ann Kynor, State Regional Floodplain Manager John Broker-Campbell, Hartford Zoning Administrator Jo-Ann Ells, Cat and Matt. Cat agreed that a site visit makes sense. Matt agreed to set it up.

5. **Community Meeting for the Design Plan:** Matt Osborn noted that a tentative date of September 1st was discussed for the community meeting on the Design Plan. He stated that is only a week away and not much time for meeting promotion. He asked if folks are available the following week. Discussion ensued. It was agreed to schedule the meeting for Thursday, September 9th. Matt stated that the meeting will be a hybrid meeting and that Karen Ganey will be presenting remotely. He will see if the Town Hall is available. If not, he will contact the libraries. There was discussion about promotion for the meeting. Matt has an e-mail list of interested people as well as a list of folks that were sent the park survey last year. He also will use the Town and West Hartford List Serve, the Town website, create a flyer, submit for the Parks and Recreation Department weekly Constant Contact e-mail and prepare a mailing to Clifford Park neighbors. Matt also will reach out to Ashton Todd who volunteered to help with social media.
6. **Tree Planting:** Matt Osborn noted that a tentative date of Saturday, September 18th was discussed for the tree planting. He asked if that date still works for folks. It was agreed to stick to 9/18 and hold the event from 9:00 a.m. to noon. Matt asked if a special meeting to plan the event is necessary. Cat Buxton responded no. She suggested that Karen Ganey, Kye Cochran and Cat will handle preparations. It was agreed to maintain social distancing at the planting. Karen suggested staking out the area for the trees and guild. RH agreed.

Marsha Autilio asked about sources of trees. Karen Ganey responded that we have several trees already.

Karen noted that irrigation is needed for the initial planting and will continue to be needed to nurture the plants. She estimated 1-3 gallons of water are needed every day for a week. She noted that Ratcliffe Park has a pump. Jon Bouton offered to provide a barrel for irrigation that could place in his truck. Matt stated that he will inquire with the Hartford Department of Public Works about use of a truck and their water tank. Cat Buxton noted that any permanent infrastructure for irrigation will require permitting and engineering.

Jon noted that he participated in the post Irene tree planting in Clifford Park and there was a good survival rate. He stated that the White River Partnership has plenty of shovels if we need them. Cat noted that the Upper Valley Trails Alliance also has tools that we could borrow.

7. **Climate Action Plan:** Jon Bouton, who participated on the Climate Action Team, reported that the Selectboard voted to adopt the Climate Action Plan (CAP) at last night's meeting. He noted that the Town hired a consultant (Ted Redmond of Pale Blue Dot) to work on drafting the Plan and work with the Climate Action Team. The CAP has goals, strategies and actions for implementation. Ally Tufenkjian noted that the Selectboard will consider a resolution on CAP implementation at their September 7th meeting. She noted that the CAP is applicable to all Town commissions and committees. Jon agreed and stated that Resilient Hartford should familiarize themselves with the CAP. He suggested that RH consider formally endorsing it. It was agreed to put the item on the September 22nd RH meeting agenda.
8. **Hartford Community Coalition Block Party:** Kye Cochran reported that the HCC Block Party is scheduled for Friday, September 10th from 5:00-8:00 p.m. She asked if RH should have a table for the event. Matt Osborn noted that it is a great opportunity to promote the Food Forest and the September 18th tree planting. The Committee agreed. Suggestions for the table included: a map of Clifford Park, goals for the project, a tree sapling, volunteer sign-up list and Karen Ganey's slides for the project.
9. **Next Resilient Hartford Meeting:** Kye Cochran noted that the next regularly scheduled RH meeting is Wednesday, September 22nd at 5:00 p.m.

10. **Adjournment:** Kye Cochran thanked everyone for attending. The meeting adjourned at 6:26 p.m.