

**Draft Meeting Minutes of the
Resilient Hartford Meeting
August 30, 2023**

Resilient Hartford Members Present: Earl Hatley (4/4/25) Carolyn Hooper (10/17/25), Laura Simon (11/30/23) and vice-chair Dylan Kreis (11/30/23).

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

Staff Present: Matt Osborn, Town Planner.

Others Present: Cat Buxton, Rachel Kent, Victoria Stevenson and Sally Mansur.

A hybrid Resilient Hartford Meeting was held on Wednesday, August 30th. 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. Public Comments:** Dylan asked if there are any public comments. There were none.
- 2. Food Forest Update:** Matt Osborn started by showing an aerial photo of Clifford Park and the Food Forest flooded on 7/10. He noted that there has been some discussion to consider a different location for the Food Forest and Abenaki Garden given climate change and the likely increase in future flooding. The flood did not create much damage to the Food Forest and Abenaki Garden and the barn was not flooded.

Cat Buxton noted that four soil samples were collected and there was no measurable contamination from the flood. She said we need to consider the future with increased flood risk. Cat noted the positive impact of increased diversity compared to the previous park turf the past two years with more pollinators, insects and mammals. Cat said she is excited about the project's potential and noted the importance of the riparian buffer going forward.

Matt noted that the Clifford Park Food Forest was planned as a pilot project with the idea of spreading it to other Town villages and parks in the future as well as other Upper Valley towns. He sees the Food Forest as an opportunity to demonstrate sustainability and resilience in a changing climate. He also noted that Resilient Hartford has made a long-term commitment to maintain the Food Forest. Carolyn Hooper asked about the maintenance commitment. Dylan responded that we have to take care of the trees and plants in the food forest.

Laura Simon suggested that we look at building the riparian area of the park.

Carolyn suggested continuing with trees and shrubs that are resilient to flooding and look at rewilding areas. Cat agreed and noted that we should continue to increase diversity. We can modify and adapt with a focus on rewilding. Matt suggested asking the White River Partnership to visit the Park and provide guidance on improving the riparian area. RH agreed. Cat stated that she has talked to Natural Resources Teacher Matt Dragon of the Hartford Area Career & Technology Center about possible work his class could do at Clifford Park.

Victoria Stevenson suggested doing more outreach with West Hartford residents. Laura noted that the Food Forest has an outreach team and should look at ways to reach West Hartford residents.

Earl Hatley suggested contacting Emily Bowles to seek guidance on native riparian plants that we might consider for Clifford Park. RH agreed.

Sally Mansur who lives on Westfield Drive likes the idea of continuing the Food Forest with a modified approach to increase resilience to flooding.

Dylan stated that we will continue this discussion at the September 27th meeting.

Cat noted that the next Food Forest Workday is scheduled for Tuesday, September 19th from 4-7 p.m.

- 3. Quechee Abenaki Garden Update:** Earl reported that a land use agreement with the Quechee Lakes Landowners Association (QLLA) and the QLLA Diversity Equity and Inclusion Council was executed for the Quechee Abenaki Garden. He recently purchased fencing and is designing a rain barrel water collection system. A fall workday is being planned. He stated that he is preparing for a spring planting of a seven sister's garden.
- 4. Wilder School Food Forest Project:** Carolyn reported that after the School Board denied the request to develop a food forest at the Wilder School due to the short-staffed maintenance department, she will be meeting with Principal Heavisides to discuss next steps.
- 5. Resilient Hartford Meeting Time:** Dylan reported that Planning Commission liaison John asked if it is possible to push back the RH meeting time. Carolyn responded that it would make it more difficult for her to attend meetings. The consensus was to leave the meeting time at 5:00 p.m.
- 6. Resilient Hartford Opening:** Dylan reported that RH still has one opening. He asked members to spread the word that we are looking for a member.
- 7. Meeting Minutes of July 26th:** Dylan asked if there were any comments regarding the meeting notes of the July 26th meeting. There were no corrections. Dylan stated that the minutes of 7/26/23 were approved as written by unanimous consent.
- 8. Announcements:** There were no announcements.
 - a. Apple Corps Coordinator: Cat Buxton announced that Rachel Kent has been named as the new Apple Corps Coordinator.
 - b. Keep Vermont Cool: Lynn Bohi announced that Keep Vermont Cool is hosting a webinar on Thursday, September 7th at 6:00 p.m.
- 9. Next RH Meeting:** Dylan noted that the next RH meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 27th.
- 10. Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 6:11 p.m.
- 11. Date RH Member Terms Expire:** Laura Simon (11/30/23). Carolyn Hooper (10/17/25) Earl Hatley (4/4/25), Michaela Lavelle (6/27/26), vice-chair Dylan Kreis (11/30/23) and chair Kye Cochran (11/30/23)