

**Approved Minutes of the
Resilient Hartford Meeting
September 22, 2021**

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

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

Others Present: Earl Hatley.

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 5:00 p.m. The meeting also was accessible remotely and many folks joined the meeting that way.

1. **Resilient Hartford Minutes of August 25, 2021:** Kye Cochran asked if there are any changes to the draft minutes of August 25th. Being none, she stated that the minutes are accepted by unanimous consent.
2. **Review of the September 9th Community Meeting on the Food Forest Design:** Kye Cochran reported that the 9/9 community meeting went very well and there was a great turnout. She noted that Karen Ganey did an excellent job presenting. There was consensus to go along with Karen's recommendation to plant three plum trees and a variety of nut trees.
3. **Review of the September 18th Food Forest Tree Planting:** Kye Cochran reported that there was an excellent turnout for the tree planting last Saturday. A total of 17 people participated in the tree planting and a total of 11 trees were planted. Kye noted that Karen Ganey led the tree planting and did a fine job with a planting demonstration. Matt Osborn noted that the number of volunteers was perfect allowing each volunteer to be fully involved in the planting. The Department of Public Works provided a truck with a water tank. Matt added that the Town purchased the three plum trees and five bags of compost. Other trees were donated. Dylan Kreis noted that 350.org donated some of the trees. Karen Ganey recommended holding off until October for the guild planting. Kye reported that yesterday, she joined Ruth Fleishman and Matt to water the trees. Matt noted that Karen recommends watering the trees with two gallons of water every 2-3 days. As a result, RH needs to monitor rainfall and determine the need to water. Kye reported that she discovered a pile of compost/mulch behind the barn and placed the material around the plants.
4. **October Food Forest Guild Planting:** Matt Osborn reported that Karen Ganey and Cat Buxton suggested Saturday, October 16th from 9:00 a.m. to noon for the guild planting. RH agreed. Kye Cochran asked if we have enough plants for the planting. If we need additional plants, Laura Simon offered to seek donations. Matt will inquire with Karen and Cat about plants and other materials needed for the guild planting. Laura and Dylan offered to help with the watering. Laura suggested developing a watering schedule.
5. **Resilient Hartford Budget:** Matt Osborn went through the budget process and presented the current RH budget from the Town General Fund:

Fiscal Year 2021/2022

• Travel & Meetings	\$360
• Advertising	\$400
• Contracted Services/Speaker Stipend	\$500
• <u>Materials & Supplies</u>	<u>\$500</u>
Total	\$1,760

Matt noted that the current RH budget is geared toward inviting guest speakers to Hartford to hold workshops on a variety of resilience topics as part of a public education campaign. Since then, RH has shifted its focus away from workshops to the Food Forest. Matt suggested keeping the bottom line the same for the FY2022/2023 budget, but shifting around the categories to line up with the current Food Forest effort. He suggested reducing the line item for Travel and Meetings and Advertising and directing those funds to Materials and Supplies. He also noted that pre-Covid, RH members regularly attended the resilience conference hosted by Norwich University and workshops hosted by Community Resilience Organization Vermont. He expects that these events will return post-Covid. Matt also noted that RH hosted Potato Fest in 2019 as a way of encouraging backyard gardening to increase food security. He asked RH if they plan to resume the event. There was consensus to resume Potato Fest or another fall harvest event going forward. Dylan Kreis suggested that RH host a produce exchange as a way of sharing food from backyard gardens. Kye Cochran liked the idea and thinks that RH can sponsor some fun events.

There was discussion about the budget. Dylan Kreis suggested that we direct more funds toward contracted services. He thinks the Food Forest Project has needs beyond Materials and Supplies such as permaculture design, engineering and permitting. RH agreed. Dylan asked the Fundraising Committee for an update. Marsha Autilio responded that the Committee has developed a list of potential grants and are waiting for information on what the specific needs are for the Food Forest Project moving forward. Ally Tufenkjian noted that since the Food Forest is an extensive project, we should consider asking for more funds this budget cycle. Matt Osborn responded that RH has some work to do to figure out how to navigate the flood regulations before we can develop a detailed budget for the Food Forest.

Kye Cochran made a motion to stick with the same bottom line as last year, but modify the amounts in each category as follows:

Fiscal Year 2022/2023 Recommended RH Budget

• Travel & Meetings	\$150
• Advertising	\$200
• Contracted Services/Speaker Stipend	\$800
• <u>Materials & Supplies</u>	<u>\$610</u>
Total	\$1,760

The motion was seconded by Marcia Gauvin and approved by a 5 to 0 vote.

- 6. Next Resilient Hartford Meeting:** Kye Cochran noted that the next regularly scheduled RH meeting is Wednesday, October 27th at 5:00 p.m.
- 7. Adjournment:** Kye Cochran thanked everyone for attending. The meeting adjourned at 6:06 p.m.