

**Approved Minutes of the
Resilient Hartford Meeting
October 27, 2021**

Resilient Hartford Members Present: Frederica Graham, 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 5:05 p.m. The meeting also was accessible remotely and many folks joined the meeting that way. Kye read the script for hybrid meetings followed by a roll call of members and liaisons.

1. **Resilient Hartford Minutes of September 22, 2021:** Kye Cochran asked if there are any changes to the draft minutes of September 22nd. Being none, she stated that the minutes are accepted by unanimous consent.
2. **Review of the October 16th Food Forest Guild Planting:** Kye Cochran reported that there was an excellent turnout for the guild planting on October 16th. About twenty people participated in the planting that included guilds for the three plum trees. She also reported that fencing was placed around the guilds. Matt Osborn noted that the Department of Public Works provided a truck with a water tank that made watering much easier. Kye reported that a friend found snake worms at Clifford Park.
3. **Food Forest Next Steps:** Matt Osborn reported that 100' of 5' fencing was used to fence the plum trees and surrounding guilds. He noted that the nine nut trees will need to be fenced as well. He asked how much additional fencing will be required. Kye Cochran responded 10' per tree which will require two more rolls of fencing. Kye offered to provide fence posts and ties. It was agreed to set up a date to install the remaining fencing once the fencing is purchased.

Matt Osborn noted that for Phase 1 of the Food Forest planting, we were required to remove as much material as we added for the planting in order to comply with the Town's Flood Hazard Area Regulations. Initially, we were intending to do extensive soil building by bringing in compost, mulch, cardboard etc. since the soil has very little organic matter. Matt noted that to do so would require involving an engineer and navigating the Flood Regulations. It would also require working with the State Regional Floodplain Administrator. Matt stated that he is planning to schedule a meeting with the Regional Floodplain Administrator and a private sector engineer and the Town Zoning Administrator to see if a plan that meets the Flood Regulations could be worked out. Frederica Graham suggested as an alternative to do soil injections.

To make Clifford Park more flood resilient, Jon Bouton suggested considering increasing the size of the riparian buffer. He suggested talking to the White River Partnership about that. RH agreed.

4. **Resilient Hartford Budget:** Matt Osborn noted that the Resilient Hartford has transitioned from hosting workshops on a variety of resilience topics as part of a public education campaign to focusing on food production projects such as Potato Fest and Food Forests. As a result, the Resilient Hartford budget has shifted, but the bottom line has remained the same. He reported that the RH recommended budget was accepted by Department of Planning and Development Director Lori Hirshfield and presented Town Plan the Selectboard on October 12th. Ally Tufenkjian reported that the Selectboard gave their stamp of approval at the October 12th budget session. The next step is for the draft budget to be finalized and to go before the voters on March 1, 2022. The following is proposed budget.

Fiscal Year 2022/2023 Resilient Hartford Budget

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

5. **Climate Action Steering Committee:** Kye Cochran reported that she spoke with Hartford Sustainability Coordinator Dana Clawson about the formation of a Climate Action Steering Committee to focus on implementation of the Climate Action Plan. Dana is hoping to find a volunteer from Resilient Hartford. Matt Osborn reported that Laura Simon participated on the Climate Action Team. He offered to see if Laura would like to continue. RH agreed. Matt agreed to contact Laura about serving on the Steering Committee.
6. **Traditional Abenaki Garden:** Earl Hatley reported that he is working with the Quechee Lakes Landowners Association to create a traditional Abenaki Garden across from the Quechee Post Office. He has been working with Abenaki bands throughout the northeast to obtain seeds. He also noted that he is working with Hartford schools about the garden. Earl stated that the garden will be planted in the spring. Earl also talked about his experience with using biochar to time release nutrients into the soil.
7. **Upper Valley Adaption Workgroup Climate Migration Workshop:** Matt Osborn reported that the Upper Valley Adaptation Workgroup is sponsoring a remote workshop on Climate Migration on Tuesday, November 9th at 6:00 p.m. Kye noted that the UVAW workshops are very informative.
8. **Next Resilient Hartford Meeting:** Kye Cochran noted that the next regularly scheduled RH meeting is Wednesday, December 1st at 5:00 p.m.
9. **Adjournment:** Kye Cochran thanked everyone for attending. The meeting adjourned at 6:06 p.m.