

**Draft Minutes of the
Resilient Hartford Meeting
6/23/21**

Resilient Hartford Members Present: Frederica Graham, Laura Simon and Chair Kye Cochran.

Others Present: Conservation Commission Liaison Jon Bouton, Ruth Fleishman, Planning Commission Liaison John Reid, Selectboard Liaison Ally Tufenkjian and consultant Cat Buxton.

Staff Present: Matt Osborn, Town Planner.

A Resilient Hartford Meeting was held in Room 2 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. **Review of the June 9th Workshop:** Kye Cochran reported that the 6/9 workshop on design and species by Karen Ganey went very well. There was discussion about suitable species and guilds for a food forest. Several people attended the remote workshop and some volunteered to serve on the design team.
2. **Food Forest Website:** Matt Osborn noted that Ruth Fleishman volunteered to create and maintain a website for the Clifford Park Food Forest. He reported that he met with Ruth and Lori Hirshfield to discuss the specifics. Ruth developed a wiki site for the Upper Valley Seed Savers and proposes a similar set-up for the Food Forest. Matt noted that the site will be accessed through the Resilient Hartford (RH) webpage on the Town website. As for the procedure, Matt will review the materials and submit to Ruth who will post them. Ruth noted that there is a separate webpage for each team and side bars with video recordings and slides from the 5/12 community meeting and 5/26 and 6/9 workshops. There also is information on the scope of work. RH reviewed the draft wiki site. Matt noted that it is important to keep the webpages up to date and to make sure that we don't use the website for RH discussions since that would be in violation of the open meeting law. Ruth noted that RH may not want to share all the information on the project with the public. RH agreed. Cat Buxton said that the website can be used to inform the public and grantors of what has been done to date on the project. Kye Cochran thanked Ruth for volunteering to do coordinate the website. RH agreed. Kye noted that the wiki page that Ruth developed for the Upper Valley Seed Savers has been very helpful.
3. **Food Forest Design Process:** Cat Buxton reported that Karen Ganey will be facilitating the design process and that a design workshop will be scheduled for July. She noted that the first step of the design phase is defining the paths and islands of plantings and it is important to avoid impacting park maintenance operations by staying clear of the tennis courts and bench. She suggested going to Clifford Park and decide where to start with an island of planting emphasizing that it needs to look nice. Cat stated that we must decide what to install this year and what to follow up with in future years. Jon Bouton suggested a phased design.

Cat noted the following project schedule:

- Host the 3rd workshop on Finalizing the Design sometime in July
- July: Soil testing and preparations: Adding layers of organic materials, planting cover crops, delineate pathways and complete the draft community design process.
- August – Continue building soil and refining design. Submit final design to Parks and Recreation Department and Parks and Recreation Commission for approval.
- September - Planting of Phase 1 of design.

Cat suggested developing a rainwater catchment system for the barn at Clifford Park as a water source. She noted that there are closed systems available to prevent leaves from plugging the gutters. She thinks it is possible that a grant might fund it.

Cat suggested contacting the Hartford Tree Board about obtaining their input for the Food Forest. Frederica Graham volunteered.

- 4. Food Forest Materials and Inspection:** Matt Osborn noted that we need to develop a protocol for accepting materials at Clifford Park such as compost, manure, woodchips, leaves and cardboard. Cat Buxton responded that she will develop the protocol. She noted that we have to be very careful to ensure that materials don't have snakeworms, invasive plants or poison ivy. RH agreed. Kye Cochran volunteered to inspect the materials. Frederica Graham noted that cardboard needs to be free of tape and staples. Cat added that we should only accept plain corrugated cardboard. Cat noted that it would be helpful if the materials are stored close to the Food Forest area. Matt suggested setting up a meeting with Dylan Kreis.
- 5. Meeting with Parks and Recreation Commission:** Matt Osborn reported that Cat Buxton and he met with the Parks and Recreation Commission (PARC) to talk about the Food Forest and answer any questions about it. He noted that the meeting went well and the PARC seemed very supportive of the project. Matt noted that the PARC will be reviewing and approving the final design and that the timing would likely be getting on the August 12th PARC meeting. Matt will coordinate with Parks and Recreation Department.
- 6. Display for West Hartford Library:** Kye Cochran presented a display that the Clifford Park Subcommittee (Kye, Frederica and Marsha) is working on to keep the West Hartford community informed about the Food Forest. RH agreed that it is a good idea.
- 7. Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 6:33 p.m.