

**Approved Minutes of the
Resilient Hartford Meeting
July 28, 2021**

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

Others Present: Energy Commission Liaison Lynn Bohi, 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 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.

1. Resilient Hartford Minutes: Kye Cochran noted that we have the following minutes to review:

- a. Minutes of April 28, 2021 Regular Meeting
- b. Minutes of May 6, 2021 Special Meeting
- c. Minutes of the May 12, 2021 Community Meeting
- d. Minutes of May 19, 2021 Regular Meeting
- e. Minutes of June 2, 2021 Special Meeting
- f. Minutes of June 23, 2021 Regular Meeting
- g. Minutes of the July 13, 2021 Design Workshop

Kye Cochran asked if there were any corrections to the minutes. There were none. Kye made a motion to accept the above listed minutes. The motion was seconded by Marcia Gauvin and unanimously approved.

2. Review of the July 13th & July 21st Design Workshops: Kye Cochran reported that the 7/13 and 7/21 design workshops with Karen Ganey went very well. There was discussion about suitable species and guilds for a food forest. At the Design Workshop #1, Karen did some brainstorming of goals, design qualities and what we aim to accomplish. There also was discussion of general design concepts. At Design Workshop #2, Horticulturalist Jesse Marksohn provided his recommendations for specific tree varieties. Kye noted that Jesse has a wealth of knowledge. She went through several of Jesse's recommendations. Kye noted that the first two design workshops were remote. The third workshop will be an in-person workshop at the West Hartford Library on Wednesday, August 4th at 6:00 p.m.

Frederica Graham asked about sources for trees? Cat Buxton responded that there are plenty of local sources.

3. Food Forest Update: Matt Osborn reported that the project was dealt a minor setback. Since Clifford Park is located within the 100-year flood zone, we have to adhere to the Flood Regulations which have a requirement that for every cubic foot of material added to the flood zone, an equal amount must be removed. As a result, the plan to build the soil for the fall planting by bringing in compost, manure, cardboard, leaves and wood chips needs to be re-evaluated. Kye Cochran noted that consultants Cat Buxton and Karen Ganey stated that there are several options to improve the

soil without adding volume. Frederica Graham stated that we can replace the poor soil with good soil.

Matt 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. Matt stated that we will discuss options with Karen and Cat and figure out what is the best approach. He added that we can continue to work on the long-term plan, but we will need to work with an engineer to address the Flood Regulations. That can be done over the winter. We will likely have to apply for grant to cover the costs of permitting.

Cat Buxton stated that she spoke with Engineer Ann Kynor, engineer for the Town Hall Rain Garden and Ann is willing to work on the project. Cat stated that she views the flood issues as a minor obstacle and not a barrier. She is optimistic that we can find a path forward where regulations and science meet. Cat noted that one of the benefits of the food forest is greater flood resilience. Marcia Gauvin stated that others may have dealt with similar challenges and that we could learn from their experiences. Cat agreed and noted that she will consult with the Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee Regional Commission and White River Partnership.

4. **Fundraising Committee Update:** Matt Osborn read an e-mail from Marsha Autilio about several grant opportunities from non-profit organizations throughout Vermont and New England. Marsha noted that the Committee is open to suggestions. Cat Buxton suggested the Canopy Grant Program.
5. **Next Design Workshop:** Kye Cochran reminded folks that Design Workshop #3 is scheduled for Wednesday, August 4th at 6:00 p.m. at the West Hartford Library. She encouraged everyone to attend.
6. **Next Resilient Hartford Meeting:** Kye Cochran reported that the next regularly scheduled meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 25th at 5:00 p.m.
7. **Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 6:06 p.m.