

**Approved Minutes of  
Resilient Hartford: A Community Resilience Organization  
February 24, 2021**

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

**Liaison Members Present:** Lynn Bohi, Energy Commission and John Reid, Planning Commission.

**Staff Present:** Matt Osborn, Town Planner.

**Others Present:** None.

A remote meeting of Resilient Hartford in compliance with the Vermont Open Meeting Law was held on Wednesday, February 24, 2021. Chair Kye Cochran called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. and read the “Act 92 remote public meeting script”.

1. **Additions/Changes to the Agenda:** Kye Cochran asked if there are any additions/changes to the agenda. There were none.
2. **Minutes of the January 27, 2021 Resilient Hartford Meeting:** Kye Cochran asked if there are any changes to the draft minutes of January 27<sup>th</sup>. Frederica Graham noted a correction. The minutes were accepted with the noted correction.
3. **Alternative Uses to Town Parks (Clifford Park Food Forest):** Matt Osborn reported that he has been in touch with Cat Buxton and Karen Ganey about the Clifford Park Food Forest project. He noted that Cat and Karen submitted a revised proposal that better meets our needs and expectations. Matt reported that the rules on insurance for consultants have changed in the last year or so and we have been informed by the Town’s insurance carrier that workers compensation insurance will be required for Cat and Karen to work on this project. Cat and Karen are seeking quotes for the insurance. The insurance issue will have to be resolved prior to signing a contract. Matt noted that Interim Town Manager John MacLean approved using Town Funds for the project several weeks ago. The new Town Manager Tracy Yarlott Davis will have to review and sign the contract.

Regarding the revised proposal, Resilient Hartford has enough funds to pay for Cat and Karen services, but there is not currently funds available for materials. According to the proposal, \$1,500 is slated for compost, topsoil and mulch and another \$1,000 for trees. Matt discussed possible grant options with Mindy Blank of GoCros. Mindy noted that GoCros does not have funds currently, but may in 2-3 months. She also thinks RH has a good chance of getting funding from foundations. Frederica Graham stated that she spoke with Karen Watson of the Hartford Tree Board who offered to work with us on the project. She added that the Tree Board has access to trees. Lynn Bohi suggested working with the Ottauquechee Natural Resource Conservation District. Matt stated that staff would prefer that the materials not be included in the budget since we currently don’t have funds available and we may be able to get by with a smaller budget and materials. He talked with Cat Buxton and Cat agreed that we could get by with less materials and there is a possibility that some of the materials could be donated.

Frederica Graham stated that she is anxious to schedule a community meeting and wondered if we could schedule the meeting before a contract with Cat and Karen is signed. RH agreed that we need to wait until the contract is signed. Kye Cochran suggested that the Food Production Committee could work on community meeting preparations and outreach. RH agreed.

John Reid noted that the project is heavily dependent on volunteers. He suggested that a contingency be put into the contract to pull out of the agreement if we don't get enough volunteers. Matt responded that Cat and Karen are well-connected with volunteer organizations and can help us. Dylan Kreis noted that the Parks and Recreation Department emphasized the need for community support for the project and the need for volunteers to take care of the trees for years to come. Matt asked about maintenance of the fruit trees and berry bushes at the Town Hall. Kye responded that Apple Corps takes care of the maintenance. Matt asked if there was a written agreement. Kye responded that she thinks it was a verbal agreement.

Kye stated that the Food Production Committee will meet to plan for the community meeting.

4. **Hartford Hazard Mitigation Plan:** Matt Osborn reported that he has been proof-reading the final draft Hazard Mitigation Plan and sent comments to the Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee Regional Commission. Once completed, the Hazard Mitigation Plan will be submitted to the Vermont Emergency Management Department and be officially approved. Once that occurs, Matt will provide copies to Resilient Hartford. He suggested including discussion of the Plan in a future Resilient Hartford meeting. The Committee agreed.
5. **Climate Action Plan:** John Reid reported that he is participating on the Climate Action Plan (CAP) Steering Committee. He stated that consultant Ted Redmond of Pale Blue Dot has led several workshops with break-out sessions with the six working groups. Several more workshops have been scheduled. CAP Steering Committee members pick three work group topics. They are presently working on goals and actions for the CAP. Laura Simon and Jon Bouton also are participating on the Steering Committee. John noted that the CAP is a work in progress and a draft for distribution is expected in mid-May with the Final CAP expected this summer.
6. **Announcements:**
  - a. Climate Summit: Matt Osborn reported that a remote Climate Summit is scheduled for Thursday, February 25<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m. The event is free, but noted that registration is required. John Reid stated that he is registered for the event.
7. **Next Meeting:** Kye Cochran noted that the next regular Resilient Hartford meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 24<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m.
8. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 5:55 p.m.