

**Approved Minutes of the
Community Resilience Organization Hartford
February 28, 2018**

Members Present: Jon Bouton, Kye Cochran, Simon Dennis, Laura Simon and chair Dylan Kreis.

Staff Present: Planner Matt Osborn.

Others Present: Len Brown, Bugbee Senior Center and Jason Rhoades of Antioch University.

A Community Resilience Organization Hartford (CROH) Meeting was held at the Hartford Town Hall, 171 Bridge Street, White River Junction, Vermont on Tuesday, February 28, 2018 in Room 2. The meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m. Introductions were made.

1. Resilient Seniors Project: Antioch University New England Professor Jason Rhoades, an environmental studies professor who focuses on public engagement and community resilience was present to discuss the *Resilient Seniors Vermont* Project. Len Brown, Executive Director of the Bugbee Senior Center also was present to discuss the project and the partnership between CROH, the Bugbee and Antioch. Jason explained the project: *Resilient Seniors Vermont* would create a collaborative process with seniors at Bugbee in an effort to protect them from the impacts of extreme weather. A preliminary planning meeting would bring together a focus group of seniors as well as representative staff from key support organizations to refine the project plan and outreach to best suit local conditions. After this planning meeting, two vulnerability assessment meetings with the senior community would take place. The project would first focus on understanding how seniors are impacted by extreme weather and what factors contribute to their vulnerability. Following these two meetings, a survey would be distributed to better understand the concerns of the broader senior community including less mobile seniors who might be unable to travel to participate in project meetings. With the information from the initial meetings and the survey, two final meetings would focus on developing strategies to help safeguard seniors from extreme weather. These strategies would seek to build on existing programs and have multiple benefits for seniors under a range of contexts. This is a general framework that could easily be adapted to be suit the specific context of the Hartford.

Jason Rhoades noted the following goals of the project:

- Raise awareness among seniors and support organizations in the region about the impact of extreme weather on seniors
- Develop in depth picture of seniors' vulnerability to extreme weather
- Identify seniors' priority concerns associated with extreme weather
- Develop strategies to enhance seniors' resilience
- Increase communication among seniors and relevant support organizations in the region

The types of extreme weather to be addressed are:

- Heat waves
- Storms and flooding
- Winter storms (snow and ice)

Jason Rhoades noted that the project will include a final report that will highlight the results of the process, including describing seniors' vulnerability to extreme weather, their priority concerns, and recommended resilience strategies. This would be shared with relevant support organizations in an effort to foster action to address priority concerns.

Jason Rhoades noted that he was involved in a similar project in Bridgeport, Connecticut in 2014/2015 which is a much more urban area than Hartford, Vermont. Jason noted that he hopes to create a process that engages seniors. He asked about the geographic extent of the project. It was agreed to limit it to the Town of Hartford and possibly invite area towns to discuss the project later in the process if they are interested in duplicating the process. Jason noted that the survey piece is intended to get seniors who don't get out of the house much. Len Brown responded that he can use meals on wheels to deliver the survey. Other locations to distribute the survey are the Bugbee Senior Center, libraries, Twin Pines Housing, Listen and the Haven.

Regarding the first meeting, Jason Rhoades stated that it will start with information on historic trends of extreme weather and include small group discussions then reconvening the larger group

Jason Rhoades asked about meeting locations other than the Bugbee Senior Center. Len Brown suggested Graystone Village and Windsor Hollow senior housing complexes.

As for publicity, Simon Dennis suggested the normal methods such as the Valley News, Town website and Town List Serv. Matt Osborn added the Town Facebook page.

Jason Rhoades noted that he would like to work with CROH and the Bugbee to schedule meeting dates that work. He envisions CROH serving as an advisory committee, participating in the community meetings and involved in developing strategies later in the process once the seniors' concerns are identified.

CROH expressed enthusiasm for the project. Len Brown noted that he thinks this is a good project and that he is happy to be involved. Dylan Kreis thanked Len and Jason for attending the meeting.

2. **Minutes of the February 13, 2018 CROH Meeting:** Dylan Kreis asked if there were any changes to the draft minutes of February 13th. There were no changes. Dylan stated that the minutes are adopted as written.
3. **Monthly Workshops:** Simon Dennis reported that he is working on a matrix to prioritize the workshops. He will send it out via e-mail. Dylan Kreis asked CROH to complete the evaluation prior to the March 15th meeting. Laura Simon suggested a workshop on Urban Food Forests. Matt Osborn asked if the topic is close enough to # 15, fruit and nut trees or whether we need a new category. Laura responded that it could be included under #15. Simon Dennis suggested a workshop "Is Bit Coin a Bubble or a Tool for Community Resilience". Matt asked if the topic is close enough to #4, debt, derivatives and de-dollarization. Simon responded yes.
4. **Next Meeting:** Dylan Kreis noted that the next regularly scheduled CROH meeting is Wednesday, March 28th at 4:30 p.m. CROH agreed to schedule another meeting in two weeks on Thursday, March 15th at 4:30 p.m. Matt agreed to reserve a meeting room.
5. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.