

**Approved Minutes of
Resilient Hartford: A Community Resilience Organization
April 22, 2020**

Members Present: Marsha Autilio, Frederica Graham, Dylan Kreis, Laura Simon, and Acting Chair Jack Spicer.

Liaison Members Present: Jon Bouton, Conservation 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 Monday, April 22, 2020. Acting Chair Jack Spicer called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m. He read the “remote public meeting script”.

1. **Introductions:** Jack Spicer welcomed new member Marsha Autilio. Introductions were made.
2. **Additions/Changes to the Agenda:** Jack Spicer asked if there are any additions/changes to the agenda. There were none. The Commission agreed.
3. **Minutes of the February 26, 2020 Resilient Hartford Meeting:** Jack Spicer asked if there are any changes to the draft minutes of February 26th. There were no changes. Jack stated that the minutes are accepted as written.
4. **Raspberry Revolution Park:** Jack Spicer reported that several years ago, property owner Mike Davidson allowed Apple Corp to use his vacant lot across from the Trail Break Restaurant to create the Raspberry Revolution Park, a mini-park with edible fruit open to the public. However, a proposal to develop the site with a five-story building was approved by the Town. As a result, the raspberry plants will need to be relocated. Frederica Graham reported that she helped plant the raspberry plants several years ago with her children. Dylan Kreis stated that the plants could be temporarily relocated at Ratcliffe Park and possibly moved later to the Town Hall with other fruit bushes and trees. He will ask permission of the Town Manager. Jack agreed to follow-up with Apple Corps. Frederica suggested communicating with Mike Davidson. Jack agreed to follow-up. Jack suggested erecting signage about the relocation. The Commission agreed.
5. **Neighborhood Networks:** Dylan Kreis noted that the vision is to form neighborhood groups that strengthen community during a disaster response. He said this has been something that Resilient Hartford has discussed since the group’s inception. Jack Spicer reported that with COVID-19, many communities in Vermont have been doing this. He noted an article in the Valley News about Lyme’s effort. He also noted that Norwich has been working on it. Matt Osborn agreed and noted that his neighborhood in Norwich formed a group and it was primarily through e-mails from neighbors that already knew each other. He reported that he has been participating in weekly Community Response Team zoom meetings and he has heard that several rural towns in Vermont have done this. He did note that it is more challenging for larger towns like Hartford with a much higher population density to do this since many don’t know their neighbors.

Jack reported that he was contacted by Martha McDaniel of the Hartford ad hoc committee on the coronavirus about working with Resilient Hartford to create more neighborhood networks in Hartford. Jack attended a sub-committee meeting with Martha and will continue to work with them. He noted that several neighborhood networks already exist in Hartford. Dylan reported that his neighborhood

off Maple Street in White River Junction has formed an informal network. Laura Simon noted that she has tried to develop a neighborhood group in Wilder Village. Jack suggested that Resilient Hartford take on an organizing role identifying neighborhood networks that exist and try to encourage the formation of more neighborhood groups. Then we could work with the Coronavirus sub-committee and ask them to develop materials to distribute to the neighborhood groups. The Commission agreed.

Jon Bouton suggested reaching out to the Hartford Community Coalition as well. The Commission agreed. Jack stated that he will prepare a proposal for the Coronavirus sub-committee.

- 6. Hazard Mitigation Plan Update:** Matt Osborn reported that although the March 11th community meeting on the hazards ranking had a small turnout, there was a very productive discussion. Matt noted that the next step will be a Hazard Mitigation Plan Steering Committee on Wednesday, April 29th and will include a hazard ranking and work on mitigation actions. Matt stated that the meeting isn't restricted to the Resilient Hartford Steering Committee members. All Resilient Hartford members and liaisons are invited to attend. Matt stated that the Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee Regional Commission is busy updated the Draft Plan as the Town is trying to meet a FEMA deadline.
- 7. Potato Fest:** Frederica Graham reported that the Potato Fest Committee met recently. She noted that this year will feature a competition between towns compared to last year's event that included a competition between villages. Jack offered to reach out to Kye Cochran about seed potatoes since last year potatoes were provided to the public in May and June.
- 8. Resilient Hartford Officer Elections:** Jack Spicer noted that he purchased a home in Tunbridge and will be moving in September. He stated that he is willing to serve as chair until he moves. There was agreement that Jack should serve as chair and possibly revisit it in July. Laura Simon made a motion to elect Jack as chair. The motion was seconded by Frederica Graham and approved unanimously. Jack Spicer made a motion to elect Dylan Kreis as vice-chair. The motion was seconded by Frederica Graham and approved unanimously.
- 9. Resilient Hartford Opening:** Jack Spicer reported that with Paige Heverly resigning, there is a Resilient Hartford opening. Jack noted that Becky Cholet expressed an interest in joining the Commission. Jack agreed to contact her.
- 10. Next Meeting:** Jack Spicer noted that next Resilient Hartford meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 27th at 5:00 p.m. Jack requested that the Resilient Hartford Bylaws be added to the agenda. The Commission agreed.
- 11. Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 6:46 p.m.