

**Draft Minutes of
Resilient Hartford: A Community Resilience Organization
June 26, 2019**

Members Present: Kye Cochran, Frederica Graham, Dylan Kreis, Jack Spicer and chair Paige Heverly.

Liaison Members Present: Jon Bouton, Conservation Commission, Niki Thram, Energy Commission and Simon Dennis, Selectboard.

Staff Present: Planner Matt Osborn.

Others Present: None.

A meeting of Resilient Hartford was held at the Hartford Town Hall, 171 Bridge Street, White River Junction, Vermont on Wednesday, June 26, 2019 in Room 312. Chair Paige Heverly called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.

1. **Minutes of the May 22, 2019 Resilient Hartford Meeting:** Paige Heverly asked if there are any changes to the draft minutes of May 22nd. Being none, Paige stated that the minutes are accepted as written.
2. **Resilient Vermont Conference:** Paige Heverly noted that Kye Cochran, Matt Osborn and herself attended the Friday session of the Resilient Vermont Conference at Norwich University which was geared toward professionals. Paige noted that Kye Cochran, Laura Simon, Jack Spicer and herself attended the Saturday session which was geared toward citizen volunteers. It was agreed that it was a good conference. Kye Cochran thought it was community oriented and had a good turnout of young people which she thinks is promising. Paige acknowledged that it was a good event, but she was disappointed in the lack of urgency in dealing with climate change.

Jack Spicer reported that the Community Workshop Disaster Scenario was a very good exercise. Led by consultant Rebecca Sanborn Stone, it looks at dealing with competing priorities and resources in dealing with a disaster. It was agreed that it might be something that we should do in Hartford. Paige volunteered to discuss ideas with Rebecca Sanborn Stone.

3. **Connor Stedman Thinking Like A Watershed Workshop:** The CROH consensus was the workshop was excellent and that Connor Stedman offers a great deal of climate change research and statistics. There were over thirty people in attendance. Matt noted that Connor shared his powerpoint presentation with CROH.
4. **HCC Block Party:** Kye Cochran reported that she distributed a lot of seed potatoes at the Block Party. She noted that there were a lot of non-residents at the Block Party.
5. **Ottauquechee River CRO:** Paige Heverly noted that Todd Menees' idea of exploring the possibility of forming a Community Resilience Organization (CRO) for the Ottauquechee River watershed is worth pursuing. She asked CROH what they think about it. Kye Cochran noted that it would require organization. Jack Spicer suggested a common project. It was agreed to discuss with other organizations such as Sustainable Woodstock, Two Rivers-Ottauquechee Regional Commission, Ottauquechee Natural Resource Conservation District and the Hartland CRO. Simon Dennis suggested swale building as a possible project that could be done in communities. He volunteered to discuss the watershed CRO idea with Sustainable Woodstock and the Two Rivers-Ottauquechee Regional Commission. Dylan Kreis stated that the swale idea might work at Watson Park. He agreed to investigate.

6. **Workshop Series:** There was discussion about summer workshops. The following is the schedule:

<u>Workshop</u>	<u>Speaker</u>	<u>Date</u>
• Gardening Event	Sylvia Davatz	6/27/19
• Rain Garden or Green Stormwater	Cat Buxton	7/25/19
• Hartford Project Day		8/17/19
• Potato Fest		9/14/19
• Climate Change	Paige Heverly	Fall, 2019

7. **Potato Fest:** Kye Cochran reported that the Potato Fest working group consisting of Laura Simon, Paige Heverly and herself will be meeting to discuss arrangements.

8. **Community Project Day:** It was agreed to hold Community Project Day on Saturday, August 17th. There was a discussion about possible projects. Dylan Kreis noted that the Hartford Parks and Recreation Department is likely to have some projects. The Commission liked the idea of having a park project in every village. Dylan agreed to investigate. Dylan noted that the Parks and Recreation Department has requested that UVM Professor Ben Falk look at alternative uses of parks.

9. **Hartford Hazard Mitigation Plan:** Matt Osborn reported that staff received word that the FEMA grant for the update of the Hartford Hazard Mitigation Plan was finally awarded. Matt noted that staff is working on a Request for Proposals to hire a consultant to assist with the update. Staff will be discussing the project with the Selectboard at their 7/2 meeting to get their input on the Plan update. Matt noted that the CRO working group on the Hazard Mitigation Plan consisting of Paige Heverly, Dylan Kreis and John Reid will be working with staff and the consultant. Paige asked if any other members were interested in serving on the Committee. Jack Spicer and Frederica Graham volunteered.

Simon Dennis noted the urgency of dealing with climate change. He urged CROH to read the white paper on climate change written by Jem Bendell “Deep Adaptation: A Map for Navigating Climate Tragedy”. Simon suggested integrating the white paper into the Hazard Mitigation Plan. He also suggested that the Plan address issues such as the interruption of food, fuel, electricity and communications.

10. **Resilient Hartford Openings:** Paige Heverly noted that there is still one Resilient Hartford opening.

11. **CRO Vermont Retreat:** Paige Heverly reported that she recently attended the CRO Vermont Board Retreat at the Metta Earth Institute in Lincoln, Vermont. She noted that the retreat focused on short and long-term planning and visioning for the organization. She said CRO Vermont will shift its messaging to be more urgent in dealing with climate change. Simon Dennis reported that there is a statewide/worldwide movement for governments at all levels to make a climate emergency declaration.

12. **Next Meeting:** Paige Heverly noted that the next CROH meeting will be for Wednesday, July 24th at 5:00 p.m.

13. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 6:22 p.m.