

**Draft Minutes of the
Community Resilience Organization Hartford
November 28, 2018**

Members Present: Jon Bouton, Kye Cochran, Simon Dennis, Jon Reid, Laura Simon and chair Paige Heverly

Staff Present: Planner Matt Osborn.

Others Present: Len Brown.

A Community Resilience Organization Hartford (CROH) Meeting was held at the Hartford Town Hall, 171 Bridge Street, White River Junction, Vermont on Wednesday, November 28, 2018 in Room 2. Chair Paige Heverly called the meeting to order at 4:34 p.m.

1. **Minutes of the October 24, 2018 CROH Meeting:** Paige Heverly asked if there were any changes to the draft minutes of October 24th. Being none, Paige stated that the minutes are accepted.
2. **Resilient Seniors Project:** Matt Osborn reported that Professor Jason Rhoades held the final Resilient Seniors Meeting at the Bugbee Senior Center on October 31st and he complete a draft report which he submitted a few days ago. Matt stated that Jason has done an outstanding job on the project. Len Brown agreed. Len stated that it is a very good report and that we can benefit from the recommendations although there may be challenges in implementing some of them. Len agreed with the survey results that many seniors are not prepared for extreme weather events. He stated that he worries most about the seniors who don't come to the Senior Center. Laura Simon asked if most seniors have awareness about weatherization. Len responded no. He suggested this as an opportunity for a youth community service program. Paige Heverly noted that the Energy Commission is looking into weatherization. She added that Cover and SEVCA have lists of folks in need of weatherization with long backlogs. Vital Communities is looking at possible grants.

Simon Dennis noted the report references the loss of electricity preventing essential services such as an oxygen machine. He suggested the Green Mountain Power's power walls (battery program) as an emergency power backup. It was noted that the GMP power walls have all been allocated.

Paige Heverly noted that the report has concrete action items that CROH and the Bugbee Senior Center can implement. Len Brown agreed. He complimented Jason Rhoades for the great job he did connecting with the seniors. He concluded by noting that the draft report is well-written and hopes that CROH will accept the report as presented. CROH agreed to discuss the report at the January 2nd CROH Meeting. Paige thanked Len for attending and partnering with CROH on the project.

3. **November 25th Winter Storm:** Simon Dennis reported that yesterday's winter storm resulted in power outages throughout the Upper Valley. As of today, there are still 270 residents without power in Hartford. He noted that the Red Cross has requested that the emergency shelter at the Hartford High School be opened. Simon also reported that Neal Road was closed after a tree fell on the power line and is awaiting removal by Green Mountain Power. There was discussion about how to communicate information to the public during emergencies. Simon Dennis suggested that CROH prepare a memo to the Town Manager about communication. Jon Reid prepared a draft and Paige Heverly agreed to e-mail Leo Pullar.
4. **CROH Meeting Schedule:** Matt Osborn noted that it is time to approve the CROH Meeting Schedule for 2019. He noted that this is an opportunity to decide on the meeting date and time.

Paige Heverly requested that the meeting time be pushed back from 4:30 to 5:00 p.m. CROH agreed. Matt noted that prospective member Frederica Graham can't make the Wednesday meeting time. There was discussion and consensus to change the meeting day from the fourth Wednesday to the first Thursday contingent upon it working for Frederica. Otherwise, the fourth Wednesday meeting time would continue. Matt will inquire and get back to CROH with the 2019 Meeting Schedule.

5. **CRO Name:** Matt Osborn reported that the CROH name change will require Selectboard approval. He noted that he heard back that the Selectboard had concerns that the name (Resilient Hartford) doesn't convey that it is a town entity. Simon Dennis suggested that Paige e-mail the Town Manager about placing the item on a future Selectboard meeting agenda. Paige agreed.
6. **Arielle King Workshop:** Paige Heverly reported that the November 8th workshop on Environmental Racism and Community Resilience went well. There were 25 people in attendance of which there were many young people, which she thinks is very important. Paige said it was a very good discussion. CROH agreed. Simon Dennis noted that the Selectboard thought the workshop should have been co-sponsored by the Hartford Committee on Racial Equity & Inclusion. There also was feeling that the topic was straying from CROH's charge. Simon suggested either amending its bylaws or articulating to the Selectboard why equality and inclusion are part of CROH's work. There was discussion and consensus that CROH is committed to building community and inclusion. Paige stated that CROH needs to be better collaborators.
7. **CRO Vermont Grant:** Paige Heverly reported that she prepared a draft of the grant application for the CRO VT Community Sufficiency Grant. Paige reported that CROH received an extension for the application which was originally due December 1st. The grant application includes the following items:
 - Hartford Potato Fest
 - Community Resilience Book Club in partnership with Chelsea Green
 - Upper Valley Food Co-op Rain Garden in collaboration with Apple Corps
 - Community Work Day
 - Speakers and resilience skills workshops

Paige noted that a CROH working group consisting of Kye Cochran, Laura Simon and herself met to develop the work program. CROH liked the proposal and agreed to continue discussion at the January 2nd CROH meeting. Paige asked CROH to review the draft application and get comments back to her by December 15th. She noted that the budget for the grant is \$2,500 and that she is still fine tuning the proposal. Matt Osborn will inquire to see if Selectboard approval of the grant application is required once the budget and work program are firmed up.

8. **Hartford Hazard Mitigation Plan Update:** Matt Osborn reported that staff applied for a state grant to hire a consultant to assist in the update of the Hazard Mitigation Plan. Staff is waiting to hear if it is funded.
9. **Next Meeting:** Paige Heverly noted that the next CROH meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 2nd at 5:00 p.m. Laura Simon indicated that she will be unable to attend.
10. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 6:22 p.m.