



Coordinated Statewide Emergency Preparedness

YOUR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PARTNER FOR CULTURAL RESOURCES

#### **HMGP: Mitigation for Memory**

#### Training sessions preliminary report Sept 24, 2014

# The basics

- COSTEP MA was awarded funding through MEMA & FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program in 2011.
- The objective is "to conduct a three-year public awareness project on mitigation damage to cultural collections and essential government records in the state."
- Original project manager Lori Foley
- Current project manager Andrew Grilz

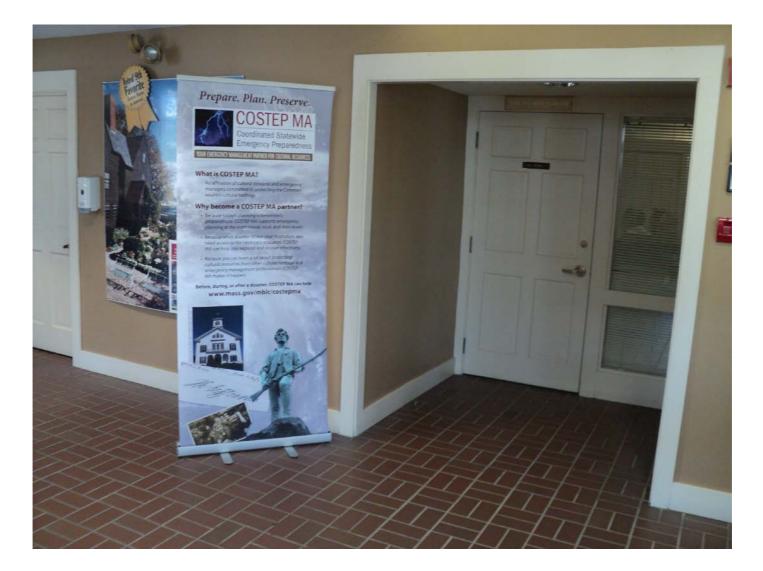
# **Project Goals**

- 1) Conduct community meetings to introduce COSTEP MA in at least 14 different communities throughout Massachusetts, at least three in each MEMA region.
- 2) At least 6 meetings with Regional Planning Authorities/Commitees, at least one in each MEMA region.
- 3) Develop a framework that provides a blueprint of approaches to mitigation for cultural institutions that can be used regionally.

# Goal 4

- 4) Conduct four full-day workshops will train cultural custodians how to conduct a risk assessment of their facility, identify and implement mitigation activities.
- One session to be held in each MEMA region
- Open invitation
- Survey the attendees to determine success/satisfaction

# House of the Seven Gables visitors center 4/16/14



# Logistics

Sessions were held in:

- Salem (MEMA Region 1)
- Harwich (MEMA Region 2)
- Northampton (MEMA Region 3)
- Worcester (MEMA Region 4)
- Promoted through MBLC, NEMA, COSTEP's Facebook page, direct emails, Eventbrite, host site promotion, word of mouth, etc...
- All sessions conducted by Emergency Response Consultant Arthur Dutil.

#### Arthur Dutil at Seven Gables



### **Session Basics**

Have a disaster plan, review it, share it

Evaluate risks :

High/low probablity

High/low impact

Evaluate resources, capacity to respond

Communication is key!

# Session 1: Salem

- Held at the House of the Seven Gables, April 16, 2014
- 43 attendees
- 3 different buildings evaluated on site (Turner House, Hawthorne Birthplace, Welcome Center)
- Discussion included emergency access to historic buildings, sheltering in place (weather emergency), historic property with historic gardens.

### Albro House, Harwich 5/5/14



# Session 2: Harwich

- Held at Harwich Community Center, May 5
- 32 Attendees
- Evaluated property Albro House (1909 private residence used by Harwich Historical Commission & other municipal offices. Currently used by town youth counselor.)
- Older electrical service discussed, access again

# Northampton- Parsons House 6/12/14



# Session 3: Northampton

- Held at Northampton Museum & Education Center (home of the Northampton Historical Society), June 12
- 19 Attendees
- Property evaluated Parsons House (circa 1730)also site of meeting.
- Discussions included uneven floors and low ceilings in period houses

# Worcester (WPI) Gordon Library 6/24/14



### Session 4: Worcester

- Held at WPI Gordon Library, June 24
- 30 attendees (out of 27 registered!)
- Property evaluated Gordon Library Archives
- Discussions include fire safety

# Results

- -124 Individual participants
- Highly favorable reviews from surveys:
- "All institutions need to make this a priority. The speaker clearly indicated what has to be done. We should all do it and work with each other to share best practices. "
- "I think this should program should be required for **all** institutions. "
- "Learned many new potential disasters that I hadn't even thought about it. More planning to do! "

"There are many hazards out there just waiting to happen!! "

"Its easy to push emergency preparedness to the bottom of the To-Do List, but the COSTEP session reminded me that it's important to tackle at least a little bit at a time. "

### Lessons learned

Sessions and information provided were eagerly received by both cultural resource custodians and emergency management professionals.

- Greater effort needed to bring EMPs to sessions (very unbalanced representation).
- More handouts and take-home information would be a welcome addition to future trainings.
- Both a '101' and advanced session would be well received by attendees for future trainings.

#### Questions?

Thank you!