

COSTEP MA Executive Committee Meeting

Thursday, March 11, 2021

10:00 – 11:00am

Zoom meeting

Communications updates: blog posts and website

1 blog post was published wrapping up the ICS self-paced study group. There were 246 sessions on the COSTEP website in the past month, with a 1 minute average visit time. Kathy Griffin and Molly Ogradnik have volunteered to run the COSTEP MA Twitter account, which saw a 2600% increase in impressions over the past month. Molly and Jessica Bitely will coordinate moderating the Facebook account. 1 weather alert was published related to a high wind warning, which was opened 95 times. Ben Haavik provided an update on high winds impact to a power outage at a Historic New England property and on-site generators failure.

Task Force updates

Evan Knight and Ben Haavik are in the process of organizing the COVID-19 and air flow webinar, and will reach out to representatives from MIT who created a COVID-19 safety app that lets users input variables regarding air flow in their spaces. If no speakers are able to present, Evan and Ben will turn the webinar idea into a blog post. Ben Haavik provided an update on air circulation efforts at Historic New England, reporting that they will experiment to see if outside air circulation decreases relative humidity and filters out particulates, which will be monitored using Hoboware dataloggers.

Outreach updates

Evan and Alejandra Dean reported that the Texas Collections Emergency Response Alliance (TX-CERA), has reached out to COSTEP MA to schedule a meeting to discuss operating as volunteer organizations. The meeting will take place on March 18th at 3:00pm ET. All Executive Committee members are encouraged to attend. The group discussed answering various questions provided by TX-CERA on the following topics: structuring organization around teams that deploy to sites in the event of an emergency (following an AIC-CERT model, which is now National Heritage Responders), creating reporting forms, assessment forms, and job descriptions for members who deploy to sites (not applicable to COSTEP MA who does not deploy to sites), and insurance/liability coverage for deployment teams (again, not applicable to COSTEP MA).

Evan reported on recent communications regarding Municipal Vulnerability Plans (MVPs), which prioritize plans for implementing and mitigating strategies to deal with climate change. Due to recent questions posed to COSTEP MA regarding how to incorporate cultural heritage into MVPs, Evan proposed prioritizing the development of templates for municipalities that can assist them in thinking about this topic.

Next Meeting

Thursday, April 8, 2021 at 10am by Zoom