

COSTEP MA Executive Committee Meeting

Thursday, June 9, 2022

10:00am-10:45am

Zoom meeting

Attendance

Evan Knight, Alejandra Moutenot, Diane Lazinsky, Priscilla Anderson, Ben Hiltunen, Mikayla Criger, Molly Ogrodnik, Andrew Raddant, Jessica Bitely, Ben Haavik, Lori Foley, Catherine Perreault, Elizabeth Morse

Communications updates: blog posts, website and social media

Evan reported that there were 3 new posts published to the blog since the May meeting, which included posts on the 2022 Atlantic Hurricane season and a post summarizing webinar recordings from Preservation Week and MayDay. The COSTEP MA website received 225 sessions and 2 email weather alerts were sent out in the past month. The Twitter account received 650 impressions, 600 profile visits, and 3 new followers.

Outreach updates

Evan and Alejandra reported out on a recent Massachusetts Maritime Security Council event that they attended in May, in which COSTEP MA was invited to provide a quick introduction to disaster preparedness and connecting cultural heritage to emergency managers. The meeting was productive in terms of networking and building bridges with local emergency managers from the Coast Guard. One Coast Guard representative has reached out to COSTEP MA to ask if the group could give a presentation on cultural heritage sites in Boston. Evan and Alejandra are currently corresponding with that individual and will keep the group informed about putting together and scheduling the presentation. The group discussed potential walking tour options for Sector Boston. Andrew provided additional context for Sector Boston's involvement in cultural heritage, and mentioned that the Coast Guard is required to comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act which requires that federal agencies consider the effects on historic properties of projects they carry out.

Evan and Alejandra also provided an update on another emergency management project that COSTEP MA has been invited to be a part of: the statewide process of updating and administering the Massachusetts Climate Assessment and the State Hazard Mitigation and Climate Adaptation Plan (which is being updated from the 2018 version). Alejandra attended a recent SHMCAAP planning meeting in which the project leaders discussed their work plan and timeline for completing the plan by Fall 2023. Alejandra will send out resources to the Executive Committee that provide more detail into this process and Evan and Alejandra will keep the group informed on ways that COSTEP MA can continue to participate moving forward.

Task Force updates

Evan and Alejandra provided an update on the GIS mapping project. Evan, Alejandra, Ben Hiltunen, and Desiree Kocis (MEMA) met on May 12th to finalize the plan for reviewing submitted data and maintaining the dataset on an annual basis. Alejandra committed to sending out another email to cultural heritage listservs asking repositories to submit information and will frame the ask by emphasizing hurricane preparedness. Lori recommended reaching out to the Mass Cultural Council to see if that agency can forward the message on to their networks. Lori also provided an update on an upcoming HENTF and Smithsonian Cultural Rescue Initiative GIS mapping summit that will be convened in September.

Alejandra provided an update on the Climate Resiliency Task Force. The Task Force has started collaborating through a Google Doc on updates to the COSTEP MA webpage on climate resiliency. The group aims to have the page updated over the next month or two.

Other business

Evan updated the group on the latest steps for the COSTEP MA microgrant that was awarded from FAIC. FAIC is able to purchase the disaster supply kits directly and will have them shipped to the MBLC office. The group brainstormed ideas for promoting the give-away and selection criteria for recipients. Ideas that were suggested included coming up with a checklist of requirements, such as opting in to the COSTEP MA weather alerts, submitting data to the GIS mapping initiative, and submitting a completed disaster plan. Anyone who has completed the requirements will be entered into the drawing, and the award recipients will be selected at random. The group will continue planning the project through the summer.

Next meeting

July 14, 2022 at 10am ET via Zoom