

COSTEP MA Executive Committee Meeting

Thursday, October 13, 2022

10:00am-

Zoom meeting

Attendance

Evan Knight, Alejandra Moutenot, Molly Ogrodnik, Kristin Collins, Becky Geller, Stephanie Garafolo, Ben Hiltunen, Catherine Perreault, Jon Patton, Priscilla Anderson

Jon Patton joined us for the first time. He is the new DCR Archeologist. Gave a brief overview of the projects DCR is working on, the most notable being a survey of the Harbor Islands done together with Boston City Archaeologist, Joe Bagley.

Communications updates: blog posts, website and social media

Evan provided website updates. He reported that while website traffic is slightly down from last month, there were still over 200 sessions, and a greater number of pages are being viewed. The homepage and tabletop exercise pages are still the most viewed. There were four new blog posts this month: Announcement that the Heritage Emergency and Response Training (HEART) program is accepting applications for 2022, Summary of the Planning & Resiliency Resources seminar hosted by the Western MA Historical Commission Coalition, a fun post about the Disaster Prep Training card game created by staff at James Madison University Libraries, and a post promoting the Foundation for Advancement in Conservation webinar on November 9 that is about working with disaster recovery companies.

Evan also reported that two email blasts were sent out this month with a 60% open rate.

Molly Ogrodnik reported that the twitter account gained a few more followers. She tweeted out the blog post and retweeted weather alerts.

Outreach updates

Evan and Alejandra updated us on the talk they gave at the Western MA Historical Commission Coalition on September 24. They spoke about COSTEP and what we do, they also promoted the GIS mapping project. The event organizer also sent the GIS mapping link to all attendees in an email after the talk. We will see if engagement with the project grows in the next month or so as a result. There were two other speakers. Marybeth Groff presented on the MA Climate Assessment and SHMCAP, and Allison Gage of FRCOG spoke about vulnerability planning at the municipal level. A recording of the full presentation is available on Youtube and a link was included in the COSTEP blog post.

Alejandra gave a brief update on SHMCAP and the MA Climate Assessment. A new draft of the Risk assessment document that incorporates the feedback provided by COSTEP and other groups last month. There was no meeting this past month, but there are several in the coming weeks. Alejandra will report back from the meetings she attends at the next meeting. Jon Patton provided some information about DCR's experience with SHMCAP, the disaster response pilot programs they are developing together with other divisions.

Task Force updates: GIS Mapping and Climate Resiliency

Alejandra is going to send out an email about annotating the climate resiliency resources page that the Task Force created.

Still finding ways to boost involvement in the GIS mapping project.

Other business

The kits purchased with funds from the AFR Micro-grant were delivered to Evan. He will manage distribution to the winners. The four criteria that organizations have to meet to enter the drawing for the kits have been finalized.

1. Subscribe to the email list
2. Put their pin on the GIS map
3. Agree to write a blog post for the COSTEP website
4. Attend a COSTEP meeting in the future

A blog post promoting this drawing should go up next week. Institutions can submit themselves by emailing COSTEP's gmail account. We will hold the drawing at the November COSTEP meeting. Evan will film an unboxing video of the kits with a full explanation of the contents and their use, as well as advice on where to place the kits and when to refresh them. This video will be posted on the website and available to anyone, not just the eight winners.

Stephanie Garafolo gave a brief explanation of NEDCC's new project in California in partnership with the California State Library. The project is called Ready—Or Not. The goal is to provide a preservation consultation and emergency preparedness plan to every cultural heritage site in California. A full summary is available on NEDCC's website. Stephanie will ask the project lead for more details about how the list of cultural heritage sites was collected by CSL in response to questions from the group. She will update us on this project going forward. She has that the increasing number and intensity of wildfires in the state has given the project a sense of urgency.

Next meeting

November 10, 2022 at 10am ET via Zoom