

COSTEP MA Executive Committee Meeting

Thursday, November 10, 2022

10:00am – 11:00am

Zoom meeting

Attendance

Evan Knight, Alejandra Moutenot, Ben Hiltunen, Jon Patton, Kristin Collins, Stephanie Garafolo, Diane Lazinsky, Becky Geller, Priscilla Anderson, Andrew Raddant

Communications updates: blog posts, website and social media

Evan reported that there were 4 new posts published to the blog since the October meeting: a post on the public call for comment to the MA Climate Assessment, a post highlighting a National Park Service technical publication, a post on NEH grant opportunities, and a post advertising COSTEP's Disaster Recovery Kit Giveaway. Evan encouraged the group to consider project ideas that COSTEP could take on for the NEH grant. The COSTEP MA website received 240 sessions and 400 page views in the past month. The Twitter account received 380 profile visits and 800 impressions. The email newsletter sustained open rates of almost 50% with a 5% click-through rate. 1 weather alert was sent out.

Outreach updates

Alejandra reported on the MA Climate Assessment and SHMCAP: the project working group opened the call for public comments on the draft reports for the Assessment, including the Damage to Cultural Resources report. The group was encouraged to continue providing feedback on the impact and urgency rankings for cultural resources and the attendant information in the report.

Kristin reported that the Boston OEM is engaging in annual THIRA planning. She will be holding a meeting with Evan, Alejandra, and Jen on November 10th to discuss how cultural heritage resources are mapped in the state and how Boston OEM can use existing data to provide an assessment on preparedness and response for cultural resources in the Metro Boston area in the event of a large-scale disaster. The goal of the update is to determine how prepared the Boston Metro area is for a large-scale disaster and how the area might respond to and recover from its potential impacts. The group shared existing datasets and resources.

Task Force updates

Alejandra reported that the GIS mapping project has been receiving some activity and that COSTEP's AFR microgrant project (Disaster Kit giveaway) will hopefully serve as a second major outreach push for the map and drive participation.

Alejandra also reported that the Climate Resiliency task force made good progress on annotating resources on the COSTEP Climate Resiliency webpage. Any resources that were annotated in the last month by the task force have now been published to the webpage.

Other business

Evan provided an update on the AFR microgrant project. The initial outreach for the Disaster Kit Giveaway went out over the COSTEP MA email list in October. 3 applications have already come in. Evan and Alejandra will promote the giveaway to external listservs such as the MHA list, MBLC list, and NEA list. The deadline for applications is December 7th.

Evan reported on an upcoming webinar presented by an environmental monitoring vendor (Conserv) on water disasters and how to respond to them, which will be posted to the COSTEP blog.

Next meeting

December 8, 2022 at 10am ET via Zoom