

Meeting Notes

COSTEP-CT met Dec. 11, 2012, at the State Library's Van Block Facility, Hartford, CT

Present:

Paul Baran, Conn. State Library (CSL)
Kathy Craughwell-Varda, Conservation
ConneCTion
Jane Cullinane, CSL
Carl DeMilia, Conn. Library Assoc. (CLA)

Mark Jones, CSL
Paul O'Pecko, Mystic Seaport
Liz Shapiro, Conn. League of History Orgs. (CLHO)
Bill Sullivan, CSL

Note taker: Jane.

INTRODUCTIONS

Carl DeMilia, president of the Connecticut Library Association and Director of the New Milford Public Library, is joining the COSTEP-CT Steering Committee.

HURRICANE/SUPER STORM SANDY

Kathy Craughwell-Varda attended the federal storm aid applicant briefing held in Fairfield. Jane Cullinane attended the briefing held in New Haven. Kathy reported that Dana Conover led the presentation, which closely resembled his presentation to us in September. Even so, Jane was surprised that the window of opportunity for an applicant is very short: just 30 days after the President declares a disaster. In fact, the organizers of the applicant briefing expected the first 3 forms to be completed and handed in as the meeting ended.

Kathy knows of 8 or 9 cultural heritage organizations that suffered building damage due to the storm. Communication with them is limited as they are probably overwhelmed with dealing with everything.

Liz Shapiro forwarded all the COSTEP-CT emails to the members of the League of History Organizations. She received 5 or 6 grateful responses to the press release called "Saving your family treasures after Super Storm Sandy" prepared by Kathy and Tara Kennedy. Several shared the information and posted it on their websites. Kathy learned that several groups in New York also shared the information.

WORKSHOPS AND SPEAKER'S BUREAU

Carl DeMilia suggested we give a disaster planning/FEMA information presentation at the Connecticut Library Association annual conference in April 2013 in Cromwell. Kathy talked about a successful "hands-on" approach she experienced at another workshop, where the participants were given a card with a disaster scenario and asked to discuss how they would respond. Kathy and Jane will work with Carl to develop a program for CLA.

This program could then be offered to other groups such as CLHO, the Assoc. of Conn. Library Boards (ACLB), and the Council of Conn. Academic Library Directors (CCALD).

Perhaps instead, Kathy and Rob Novak could do a program for CLHO on disaster preparedness that includes a walk through a volunteer organization where Kathy gives a conservator's point of view and Rob gives a firefighter's point of view of disaster preparedness.

Bill Sullivan suggested we develop specific information that would be helpful to public libraries and put it on the State Library's WebJunction website. Jane thought the information should go on the COSTEP-CT website and WebJunction could link to it.

Perhaps what we need is a Speaker's Bureau, where we announce what presentations COSTEP-CT has on offer and we let all these other organizations know we are available. Kathy suggested this because, although we might not be able to get every organization to achieve a full-blown disaster plan and complete knowledge of the FEMA disaster assistance process, we can raise awareness and build a network so organizations affected by a disaster know who to call.

Belfor Property Restoration will host the rescheduled workshop for participants in the Conservation ConneCTion Disaster Preparedness series on Jan. 22, 2013. The workshop had originally been scheduled for late October, when Super Storm Sandy struck.

COSTEP ORGANIZATION PLAN

Kathy and Liz will work on the grant application for the Peer Advisory Network (PAN) to get a consultant to help COSTEP-CT. Members of the Steering Committee will have to fill out a survey intended to elicit our perceptions of how COSTEP-CT works now before Kathy and Liz can finish the application. We don't need to be a 501(3)c organization to apply for a PAN grant.

NEXT MEETINGS

January 8th, at the State Library's Van Block Facility

Reminder of the bad weather meeting cancelation policy: If school is canceled in the town where the meeting will be held, then the meeting is canceled. If school is delayed, then the meeting will be held as originally scheduled.