

Meeting Notes

COSTEP-CT met Oct. 14, 2010 at the Connecticut State Library, Van Block Facility.

Present: Kathy Craughwell-Varda (Conservation ConneCTion), Jane Cullinane (Conn. State Library, Preservation Office), Mark Jones (Conn. State Library, State Archivist), Tara Kennedy (Yale University), Anne Leeny-Panagrossi (Albertus Magnus College), Rich Malley (Conn. Historical Society), Robert Novak (Derby Historical Society), Lizette Pelletier (Conn. State Library, Public Records Office), Liz Shapiro (Conn. League of Historical Organizations), Meredith Vasta (Mashantucket Pequot Museum and Research Center). Note taker: Jane.

NEW MEMBERS

Liz Shapiro is the Interim Director of the Connecticut League of Historical Organizations and Director of the Sharon Historical Society.

Anne Leeny-Panagrossi is the Director of Library and Information Services at Rosary Hall Library at Albertus Magnus College.

WEB SITE AND COMMUNICATION

Lizette Pelletier added a News and Noteworthy page with links to articles on the recent cultural heritage disasters. She also added a map and a list, by town, of the emergency management regions of the Connecticut Dept. of Emergency Management and Homeland Security.

Tara Kennedy started a Google Group for COSTEP-CT which will allow us to communicate via email, like a listserv. Jane Cullinane will share the COSTEP-CT email list and Tara will invite the Steering Committee members to join the group.

We can also start a "folder" in Google Docs so we can share and work together on documents. Tara will work to create a folder for us.

Kathy Craughwell-Varda will try loading a press release about COSTEP-CT into the Google Docs folder so we can all work on it. Kathy wants to give the press release to the Connecticut Humanities Council to disseminate.

Jane will try loading the disaster supplies survey questions as well, so we can all work on them.

LOGO FOR COSTEP-CT

Hartford Public Library shared a postcard with a drawing of the fallen Charter Oak tree but the image is still too complex to use as a logo. Liz suggested someone she knows who might volunteer to make a drawing for us. Kathy will contact this person.

Rich Malley will write a paragraph on the significance of the Charter Oak. Rob Novak suggested this short description: The Charter Oak tree was an iconic state symbol whose loss was one of Connecticut's first cultural disasters.

MUTUAL AID

The Connecticut State Historical Records Advisory Board and the Connecticut State Library submitted a grant application to the National Historical Publications and Records Commission for a series of focus groups on the topic of regional mutual aid agreements, to be moderated by Lori Foley of the Northeast Document Conservation Center. We'll know in May if the grant was awarded.

SURVEY ON DISASTER RESPONSE SKILLS AND SUPPLIES

Liz Shapiro said we need to know very clearly what we need to find out, and then write the survey to

meet that need. Do we need to know if organizations have had disasters, or just what experience and supplies they have? What would entice someone to take the time to answer the survey? Be very clear what we hope to do with the information.

Perhaps the first sentence in the introduction should be: Without your participation, there will be no money for disaster preparedness and recovery in Connecticut. This could be followed by bullet points listing recent disasters, and a statement about the money they have and what they need for recovery. Then an explanation of what COSTEP-CT is and what the survey wants to accomplish.

Liz and Kathy will work on the survey some more.

NEXT MEETING

We'll meet Dec. 2, 2010, at 10:00-12:00, at the State Library's Van Block facility.