

Meeting notes

COSTEP-CT met Apr. 5 at the Connecticut State Library, Van Block facility.

Present: Kathy Craughwell-Varda (Conservation ConneCTion), Jane Cullinane (Conn. State Library, Preservation Office), Robert Novak (Derby Historical Society), Lizette Pelletier (Conn. State Library, Public Records Office). Note taker: Jane.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jack Sullivan of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Boston sent an email on March 30th that the Northeast Cultural Resource Conference has been canceled. One of the things the conference was intended to address was ways to develop relationships with state and local emergency management. Cathy Craughwell-Varda will ask Lori Foley if Heritage Preservation would give a grant for alternative funding for the conference.

VIDEO ON RELATIONSHIP WITH EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

We considered whether another way to build this relationship would be a video that shows something like a virtual tour of a Connecticut museum with a narrative about disaster preparedness.

- Perhaps it could include a presentation or interview with a fire marshal and with a cultural heritage manager doing a preplan.
- Perhaps we could do a segment at a firehouse with content aimed at firefighters and another segment at a museum with content aimed at museum staff
- Perhaps the fire at the Essex Steamboat Museum could be featured and include an interview with one of the firefighters who knew what to rescue because of school visits to the museum as a child.
- Perhaps the Greenwich Historical Society would be a good site for the video as they recently did an exhibit on fire fighting and presumably have connections with the local fire fighters.

The video could be shown to federal and local emergency management and to cultural heritage managers and boards and could be made in such a way that it was of use across the country.

As none of us has video experience, we would need both a planning grant and a grant to accomplish this. Cathy will inquire with the Connecticut Humanities Council. Perhaps we could get an IMLS Leadership grant or perhaps the International Fire Service Training Association (IFSTA) or the Connecticut State Fire Academy would help. Perhaps CPTV could make the video.

GRANTS FOR DISASTER MITIGATION

Lizette Pelletier found out about several emergency preparedness and recovery grants. She contacted the awarding agencies to find out if we were eligible to get funds for activities such as purchasing stockpiles of emergency response supplies or to pay for the toll-free number for the Intergovernmental Preparedness for Essential Records (IPER) training program.

The state Dept. of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS) gets an annual allocation of Emergency Management Administration Grants from FEMA which could fund these activities. It is a competitive grant program with an application deadline of Oct. 1st, for the 2012 grants. Lizette will submit a preliminary cost estimate to her contact at DEMHS.

Other FEMA grants include the Hazard Mitigation Grants Program (HMGP) which allocates 10% of federal disaster declaration funds for mitigation activities, most of which goes to a list of previously identified structures, dams, etc. that need help. Only 5% of that amount is for discretionary grants, but the projects must return a dollar for dollar savings in reducing damage. DEMHS administers these grants. In addition, the state Dept. of Environmental Protection gets an annual allocation of federal funds for grants for such things as flood control and environmental mitigation. We think the cultural heritage community is unlikely to be eligible for these grants.

GOOGLE DOCS FOLDER

Jane Cullinane helped the members get Google email accounts and shared some tips on how to use Google Docs for COSTEP-CT business.

NEXT MEETING:

May 10th, 10:00, location to be announced.