

COSTEP-CT Meeting Notes

Mar. 6, 2015.

At the office of the Connecticut League of History Organizations, Middletown, CT.

Present:

Kathy Craughwell-Varda (Conservation
Connection)

Jane Cullinane, CT State Library (CSL)

Tara Kennedy, Yale University

Lizette Pelletier, State Archivist, CSL

Liz Shapiro, CT League of History Organizations

Note taker: Jane

WEBSITE, EMAIL, CONSTANT CONTACT AND FACEBOOK

After a hiatus of one year, the group is coming back together. We have new website at <http://costep-ct.org/>. We will update the website page called "Who Can Cultural Heritage Institutions Call for Help in a Disaster" <http://costep-ct.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/Who-can-you-call-for-help-flow-chart-2012-10311.pdf>. **Tell Kathy Craughwell-Varda what changes are needed.**

COSTEP-CT has an email address: csl.costep-ct@ct.gov. **Tara Kennedy will monitor this email account and reply on our behalf or forward to one of us as needed.** We will begin to take turns at this, if the account becomes very active.

We have a Constant Contact presence, associated with CSL's Constant Contact presence, that will allow us to send email to Steering Committee members, others interested in COSTEP-CT and other groups such as librarians and town clerks that CSL has in its lists. Kathy Craughwell-Varda and Lizette Pelletier are Administrators for this account. **Kathy will add a box to the new website, so people can sign up to add their names to the Constant Contact list. Jane Cullinane will share the old email distribution list with Kathy as well.**

Tara will create a Facebook page for COSTEP-CT. We'll be able to have our Constant Contact emails appear on the Facebook automatically. Tara will be the administrator for Facebook.

COSTEP-CT ACTIVITIES

We will reach out to other COSTEP-CT members about joining us at the next meeting. One of our immediate goals will be to pass the by-laws and re-organization plan.

Individually, we have continued to reach out to town clerks, librarians and museum and historical society staff when bad weather is approaching. **Our next weather alert should warn of basement flooding** and other such damage as the heavy snow load begins to melt. The rule of thumb is that 10 inches of fresh snow represents 1 inch of rain. But compacted old snow contains more water and 4 inches of snow could represent 1 inch of water.

We want to create standard Weather Alerts or Action Templates that we can release when certain types of weather events threaten. These alerts should include what to do and who to reach out to. In addition, we can call and offer advice when we hear of an event. Jane is aware of broken pipes or leaks from ice dams at the Ashford Public Library, Booth Library in Newtown, and the Rowayton Library in Norwalk. Lizette mentioned the Sterling Town Hall where an enclosed courtyard full of 6 to 8 feet of

snow had the potential to cause a flood when it melted (the town removed the snow first). Liz Shapiro knew of a collapse of some kind that let snow into the Ebenezer Avery House. The Old State House has leaks from ice dams. Ridgefield Historical Society has basement floods. **Send Jane a brief description of disasters that have occurred and she will keep a list on the website.**

Kathy and Tara will attend the FEMA Region I NCH Alliance meeting in Boston on Mar. 18. (Federal Emergency Management Agency, Natural and Cultural Resources and Historic Properties) There are several accomplishments to mention at this meeting. We have a new website, a Constant Contact presence, a dedicated email address and, soon, a Facebook page. We also plan to continue the effort to have strategic plan.

Liz reported that a group of historic preservation, humanities and library organizations are forming an advocacy group, with a website at <http://ctplaccesmatter.org>. They are working on a value statement and are planning an Advocacy Day to the state Legislature on April 8th.

Lizette said as new State Archivist she wants to give strong to support History Day. She will be a judge at the Litchfield regional contest.

NEXT MEETING

April 13, 2015 10:00 at the State Library's Van Block Facility, from 10:00-12:00 (to be confirmed)