

Preservation Massachusetts
Cruising the Commonwealth
July 12, 2017
New Bedford, MA
New Bedford Public Library

Introductions - Jim

Session at Statewide Conference - final wrap up meeting in Lowell.

Goal of CTC, to be with like-minded people

NB Historical Society, focus on people of color - 200th anniversary of Frederic Douglass - Nathan and Polly Johnson House, CPA funds - Lee Blake -

Abolition Row Park - focus on abolition movement in NB and a focus of the narrative of the city - new city Park

NPS has combined with two other parks - Blackstone and Roger Williams

Carney House - how can we be of more assistance

Public support for historic preservation - incredible.

AL - dovetail off Arthur Motta, lack of funding, if they had a blank check for funding they could do so much, - patience with WHALE, - takes 10 years to have a project go forth, funding

MHRTC - lobbying for that is encouraging, keep doing that to raise the cap for that. That is essential. Report that PM did is so helpful, speak their language (elected officials) dollar and sense

CPA state funding, didn't get into the budget, Stuart is working another avenue, this is huge, with Boston coming in communities will begin repealing CPA, if there is no state match.

Work with CPC - to get the increase in the funding. - how can we focus on getting another funding source.

NTHP - studies, dollars and sense for preservation in community. Why are they reticent to increase the fees for CPA...?

Two tools that should not be limited - can we take the cap off.

NB CPA - local leverage and state match, apron \$1 million.

For a community that is new to CPA, there is concern. NB will be using majority of CPA for HP, public outreach meetings over two weeks to hear from folks, how they wanted to see CPA mentioned. Two pages of HP projects to get done. Community that values historic preservation recognize efforts to fund it, concerned they haven't even started and the pool is shrinking.

Work with CPA - we should think of a strategy working with communities that are large, how should they talk to the citizens of the community so they don't see it as a prohibitive tax, as a benefit to the community.

Address it by going to the better angles and see what it done. Figure out this language.

Language, the story and how can you frame it as a benefit and not a tax.

AL - Lee and Teri when NB had a paradigm shift, when Fall River passed it, they all realized it was something to seriously look at.

LB- show people what products will come from this, talk to them about how this money will impact the development of the projects, less and less federal projects, time to get on Board for
Make sure minority community knows how to apply for these grants, -talked to them about this is what you want preserved, we will help you do that. -

Strategy and advocacy - how to lobby your legislators about CPA_ how a project will impact neighborhood - focus on sustainability - work with who have CPA on getting a match,

CPA session at Conference - address and have it discussed at the conference

CPA, Coalition and PM - issues and opportunities and challenges tie into CPA, not at exclusion of communities that haven't got CPA, have same challenges but can't get on Board, but if we were to bring in CPA to Dartmouth in this climate, harder to get approval.

Issue of State Match: CPA - work with CPC.

Repealing CPA, - probably not in Dartmouth. - recreation creation. - original intent vs. what is being accepted now.

TB-

Challenges -

-churches and shrinking congregation: Partners for sacred places workshop, working with three congregations and many other churches that are vacant and for sale. Capital needs are huge

Lots of historic space, capital needs are huge

-making historic preservationist just the preservation tightness, and looking at it as a community tool, helped WHALE grow, outlook on project. Nationally how HP is moving - has happened in NB - shown with community meetings.

-lots of local groups that are using preservation as a tool and understand the importance of preserving their culture, challenge in that movement is partnering with neighborhood groups that do not have the capacity or need to learn how to have the capacity to do the restoration projects. - cape Verdean group with the restoration of a theatre on Acushnet Ave.

LB- CPA is important - people ready to abandon historic properties - Friends Meeting House - 10 active members, how do we save this? Exhibit space, office space, how to use HP to shore up neighborhoods, homes that were and are NHL, no money to paint them. challenges around the properties, as people are jockeying for funds, society can get funds and helping people understand all the places they can go for funding.

Unique situation, tell a national story - (NBHS) Understanding where the pools of money are, and cobbling them together, how does this happen? TB has been able to work with local banks

Make a list of what are all the potential funding pools that exist that people can access. Resources and a guide for people to utilize and access it.

Make the resources for people who are volunteers and do not have the capacity or knowledge to do this...

“Where’s the Money” Guide and how to get it.

Where to look for the information.

LB -does free workshops on grant writing - an empowering skill that people need to learn. Teach people how to do it.

Minority community empowering skill = make sure the minority community knows how to do this, it is not magic. If you're not competitive you are not going to get it.

Sgt. Carney House - a national story to tell, how to tell your stories better - National stories, how you spin it and market it

Challenge - stories, access to information - digitization of documents and newspapers, things that researchers can find out about these properties and the amazing historic resources, outdated surveys, love to see digitation be a part of the preservation story, and more, - preservation in the 21st century. Learn about more structures if you had the resources and empowering people to be access and give accounts to.

Social Media and Historic Preservation - a great way to get people’s stories - Facebook, what is the history of this place, obscure places - stone walls.

Facebook - connect

Teardowns and demolitions are still and issues - cycles of demolitions - Demolition delay is 6-12 months in NB, only have one local historic district,

AM - Churches, inevitably the conversation devolves into we need more money - with churches, they are falling apart, - entrances to their communities. -

AL- planning discussions - the direction of churches today. It doesn't fit their needs, older sanctuary spaces. The old churches are not that size and built for that. Old church buildings need to be adapted as a new use.

The view is that churches that is willed to the archdiocese, it is for the mission of the church, the building is not important. There will not be money or enough to save them, what do you do going forward? How do you head off the inevitable? Different pathways. Used by the community Lewiston, ME, used the church as a minor basilica, can be designated but the Vatican for its importance to the community for the history, architecture, etc. You can apply for the status (in Latin), if you get approved, the hosting diocese must pay a stipend to keep the building up. Comes out of the diocese to do it..... An example of how to try to find another way around.

WE need to look at the historic resources in different ways - new ways to restore them, to use them, how do we move forward. - a new discussion around churches... how to use them... what will they be going forward.

Market and church stories vary from community to community.

Meeting space is in need for New Bedford.

Each NP unto themselves cannot sustain the building, but as a group, yes.

Municipal approach, look at them from a mothball standpoint. Don't want to use them.

Orpheum Theatre - not a use for it in its current location - funky location, planning you need to be patient, think in decades, who is to say 10 -20 years the south end is a booming area, something can happen. You can't make something happen if the time is not right.

No, is not right now.

City and State doing Rt. 18. That section ends right in front of the Orpheum. - an opportunity lost because the roundabout idea.

Preservation Education - if you can't make your community understand why preservation is important, and losing these things is detrimental, you need to educate the public.

AL - more partners, who are good advocates. projects in the downtown, very visible projects that have multiple components to HP and economic development. Local historic district in DT is a great example. Inside the cobblestones. People are making a concerted effort to be in the historic district how do we partner with the private sector to use the momentum, more private investment into the historic properties in the city. Lack of public funding, how do we capitalize on private investment.

Challenge with Mill and use of housing, tapped out, don't have commuter rail yet, until that occurs, Winn and Ricciardi, not going to do that much mill redevelopment because the market is not there.

Pushback from private investors, tenement buildings suffer from the new housing because they have tenements vacancies.

Balance of this, transportation in the gateway communities.

Education - general public

Working on a new local district - abolitionist house, story of race, the people of color, people know and they can highlight it.

Trends - the millennial - trending away from the older generations, seeing younger folks coming in, want to live in the downtown, want a walkable city, the museums, the bars, etc.

How do we as a community engage the millennials, they

There is a cultural pride, everyone is super proud to be from

How to capitalize on it?

Young Preservationists -

Engaging people of young ages, social media 0- nontraditional partners.

Partner with arts organizations,

Also getting preservation into the neighborhoods - value of things in their neighborhood, not just the downtown, relate the history to people who are moving in

Demonstrate the value of preservation well here, how to expand that into the outlying neighborhoods and other places

Challenges - disturbed me, becoming a victim of our own success. you have the microbreweries, we have some outliers, and you are not the boss of me. Even though they have to go to HC, they don't want to listen to what we are saying. Want to do what they want to do.

Disturbing trend, don't want the district to not live, living entity, hard when you have private development that does not have the same attitude toward preservation, op to own where property values have risen, - they

Ties into the education aspect, there should be a cultural pride... how to get people on the same page.

Paul - everything that we have discussed, part of the reason I came here. one concern, for every city, that is its trees. Historic trees, historic landscapes, Private trees, not public realm. Concern about lack of guidelines on historic trees. Heritage Trees- not as a thing but guidelines within the municipal ordinances that inform the development process about protecting the historic trees when a project is underway.

Trees- public parks and historic trees - guidelines and inconsistencies regarding this - how do deal with a tree during a construction process.

Paul P. historic landscape committee - consistently issues.
Give to municipalities guidelines and structures for models

Where would you like to see the preservation community in the next 5-10 years - where is the next generation going> more partnership with RWU - more internships, more gathering and networking - get them involved with the current professionals, etc.

Issues seminar, twice a year, let's talk about what happened in the community with preservation, where students can come in with one on one, trends.

Attracting a younger crowd, networking around issues

Community do work with public schools and colleges, career paths through people, mentoring young women on WHALE's board on what types of pathways exist.
Helpful at a conference, how people developed their career for younger people.

Everyone is interested in what types of jobs will be coming up. we must replenish the area, and its people like Carl that can be helpful.

After school program with NBHS

kids love history- what is the value of historic preservation

How to connect with school children

NB that energizes their preservation efforts. HP community has turned that around, as an

RGD offer free field trips, started brainstorming if they can go to schools.

Barriers that prevent youth from attending the museum, children really love it.

Cultural Partnerships with RWU - early educational program. - importance of education of historic and context. sense of place and culture.

8 students wrote lesson plans around akin house history and Padnaram village and founding of Dartmouth. ripple effect. good news, all this content, so they had that to work off to. 8 lesson plans unique for the school.

As a program, they work wonderfully, meant to inform living history program. delivered at the akin house, once they are through phase 3 at the akin house, going to have these elementary students, then vision is for high school, learn the content and teach also.

So many opportunities to wrap the education.

The point is that is a continuum of education, you must make sure you show people the career paths, at the same time you develop the interest in young children,

75 classroom activities

Job opportunities, workforce - emphasis on getting people ready to work, understand how there are jobs in the field. Jobs are varied...

Show the career paths, Mass Humanities had funding for some of these

Hip Hop History, January - funded by Mass Humanities, for high school students.

All about community, multi layered, it can become hard to make it happen,

People should be politically active in their communities, to work from within. Need to get people active and do lobbying for preservation.

Elected officials, important outreach.