

Cruising the Commonwealth  
Greenfield, August 1, 2017  
Franklin County Regional Council of Governments

JWI - Introductions and CTC Background  
What we are trying to accomplish

EK- Describe PM and programs

MHC Guidebooks, etc.

LP Athol -historic mill

Warwick - restoring and building older building parts  
energy conservation and the damage that misguided efforts are doing to buildings in the commonwealth.

Pioneer Valley Institute - B MacEwan now lining in Greenfield - Blackstone and Essex Heritage Areas -  
need networking and support to get it done. - Need to discuss over the next few days (network and how  
does this happen)

Open Discussion -

Hatfield - have benefited from PM and MHC, abandoned historic school now being converted to senior  
housing.

Hatfield - historic tobacco barn - now a farm museum (former MER), one thing led to another.

Developers, already signed contract to convert school into housing, slowed down by Berkshire gas won't  
do any new connections, until they agree to let a major pipeline go through. Irritating problem for  
developers. Want a new gas heating system, project held up by Gas Company not wanting to do anything.

Talked to Stan Rosenberg

This affects more than one community, and it affects private homes as well. (what other towns are  
affected?) All towns affected that are served by Berkshire Gas. -

How to deal with Gas Companies....

This is a big issue - with the entire valley.

Athol - Anything to increase the MHRTC cap.

JWI - work with MHC who administers it.

JWI describe the advocacy work that PM does on behalf of the MHRTC cap.

Issue this year is with tax revenue being way off, the legislature is unlikely to put new tax credit programs  
in place or make an increase.

Some states losing their state tax credits.

Small wins, sunset date, but we get frustrated and there is a lot of competition.

Issues in DC with a more conservative bend to Congress and also the FHRTC is under siege and tax  
reform is coming.

state tax credits - the projects take so long; critical timing and rates are going up.

timing -

Project is very important to the town of Athol.

JWI - Senator Chandler wanting to put \$10 million increase - along with three other bills from the House.

Union Twist Mill -

Petitioning Jay Ash to do some sort of cross funding - with an economic development program.

CS- is it phased) NC developer- Albert Rex is consultant.

Problems are seen all over MA - the 50 million is not enough.

Are there criteria for applications? Does population density and geography have anything to do with it?

It is discretionary to the Secretary of the State

Diversity and dealing with a cap, other ways to clear the backlog -

The importance of local and state legislators - they want to see the projects happen but they are also a good source of support.

State and Federal

Leverett - don't have building industrial buildings,  
Box Shop - Leverett Craft Center - different forms of support for the state- positions to continue preserving itself.

A lot of towns have the same situations, two little museums (former school house and library) keeping these afloat, keeping them going is difficult, Franklin County Technical School, may be of interest to have an historic carpentry shop - benefit a lot of small towns in Franklin County, yearly suggesting from FRCOG wrote that up from Leveret last year.

Know North Bennet Street is a model for this sort of thing, young carpenters in need of

Need to come up with creative solutions to get these things preserved.

working on 12 historic cemeteries

North Bennet Street School and partnership with Historic Boston, Inc.

Pamphlet of people that do the historic work trades -

NBSS - various trade schools across the state, networking and providing students across the state who want to go into preservation work (carpenter, window, etc. ) if we can have a network across the state with schools, so there are places people can look to for assistance (locally) with a program -

Worcester Technical/Trade School -

Model like NBSS- there needs to be a standard, a set of

Looking at the people in the trades - they are aging. We need a new generation

BG- how do you get the info out for the homeowner, so they know the alternative... a network of historic homeowner network -

Give them resources, etc.

Hatfield - 7 NR districts and demo delay bylaw - town clerk, brochures in town clerk's office if someone asked about historic districts did or did not do, pamphlets and historic commissioner, list of historic trade people who can do the work. Very helpful

Cost Analysis of preservation vs destruction (Heritage Canada). - has PM ever considered doing this?

Make pitch to town of Warwick -Vinyl replacements 5 replacement to equal what they have now, install storms, town went for it,

Combine with Economic Impact of HP

Tech Students - Shaker communities - have good relationships with tech students, Enfield NH has used a lot of local tech students. How to use young and up and coming people in the trades.

JWI- Hancock Shaker Village and solar panels.

BG- Biggest preservation challenge, speaking as a planner, smaller towns, say that the fact that these towns are small, lack of funding to do even the most basic of things (updating inventory forms, filing paperwork, etc.) lots of towns have areas that they would like to designate but they don't have the funding to do someone like FCRCOG to do that. Towns struggle with funding in general, or they have volunteer committees,

some towns with not so active historic commission members. Historic societies, sometimes there is a HS and a museum and they are not working...

HS - written letter by Lafayette.... these small towns.

BM- why she is pitching the Polish Heritage Corridor, help all the small towns, people, museums, etc. Looking at the Pioneer Valley, as a tourist attraction, you have MGM and they are looking as a destination place and where to send people who are not gambling to visit. This would benefit museums, etc.

Funding from grants

This umbrella will support smaller communities.

Pioneer valley History Network - missions aligned?

The vision

JWI- a want for the preservation community to want to network and band together more than ever.

BG- talking about historic tax credit program, always a need for more funding, - session in April [ point that got made is that is one of the most basic and easiest ways to redevelop and help a community, is a lot of great info.

Millers Falls - Montague - getting an NR district the start for a developer

NR opens some options and leverages and makes projects come together without the program.

Vision 30% credit for smaller projects, main street projects - smaller projects that are easier to do. Not large mill complex, the next phase of restoration projects (commercial )

BG- How can a group like PM serve you

Advocacy and education - like tech students, moving to the next generation, there is something there, with advocacy and making sure on the political level it remains an important issue, think in terms of the younger people and inspired...

Through woodworking, tradespeople who are exposing people to HP and can then look at a building differently this is cool, I didn't know it was here, using tech schools to reach out to that group.

BM- need to make the connection to the group, with the preservation community, and that they will accept the work of someone coming out of a tech school over an established firm....

the information like a list needs to be available to the preservation community. I know someone who taught carpentry at a tech school, trained by a preservation carpenter, ready to go to work on preservation projects, they need to know where they are.

JWI- broader theme, you have some great preservation programs now, grad and undergrad, more preservation education, to try to harness some of that. Many come out of programs and can't find a position, people with skills...

NC- public history student - historic preservation track, pick one, Local level, engaging students who are doing HP and entering into the work force,

How to engage, workshops and networking with people in the field

New England Museum Association - has a lot of networking opportunities...

Young preservationist group

Leverett - even younger than the voke schools is a dual stratum planning of historic assets and helping to have elementary school students gather some oral histories for people who went to local village schools, Kids are going to be a part of getting the oral histories.

Local education - MCAS killed it , at least high school programs.

local history with elementary schools -

Talk about it and then take them out of the class rooms.

IT often brings a community together, communities populated by people who are more transient, make the connection with -

Hatfield - farm museum, open for 17 years, up until now, one of the things to rely on , people from here worked in agriculture. A generation from now, there will be no one here who worked in agriculture, and no connection to that industry, other than

Cultural heritage, how to make that more important...and applicable

CS- Things in terms of trades, barns, not like it's a mystery, whatever you want to find for success stories, we have found people who have done them. In Indiana, they have an annual statewide historic preservation conference that lasts for 4 days.

Indiana - it is a lot of sessions about trades, extended workshops on just trades, (windows) Ohio has the budding doctors program.- statewide nonprofit, all property owners get together and these building experts go to your buildings and talk about needs and needs assessment.

NH has an old house fair, bring in property owners, have vendors there, storm windows or seen these windows in use.

Having vendors, how to do basic maintenance on your house, what to look for with trades people...

Lots of success stories about. All realities, people have done a lot.

NC- statewide has staff with professional expertise in building construction and real estate business.

CS- Asked the Salem Question

how to get preservation done without (and not relying on ) regulation. You can do preservation without a regulatory basis.

CS- use of the word "should" ....

AS a preservationist, do you think you are on the side of angels? Are you answering to a higher calling?

Once you think you are, you have left the earthly reality and you "have" a free pass that you can do anything. You need to stop saying "should" is not how to get there. Try to get commissions to think that we are part of the political process like everyone else, there is no free pass.

Hatfield - natural alliance was with being green, historic preservation is green and despite people who want to object to solar panels=- In this area, people see being green as real and meaningful and supportive of the idea, HP is green,

fining partnerships and alliances

BM- HP is good for the economy too, we bring people into the area in terms of what they have done.

Partnerships...

land trusts  
general historic preservation perception, how we talk about it...

Land trusts went down the local nonprofit route, they bring in events and get

HP - working with local nonprofits - or the creating a lot more of them at the local level

Ideas: An Old House Fair in MA?

BG- think on the town level, to try and do things to encourage people to want to join the HC, getting on a town committee is intimidating, anything a town can do to encourage people and inviting them to serve... always a little bit of an intimidation factor...

Other idea - old house fair

Old House Fair - people want to network and see what else is there...

people who own an historic home would not necessarily consider themselves historians or preservationists, or deal with issues that they have... r

Brining younger people into the interest circle one of the things Nolan is going to do at the levered library is talk about the way they have sued social media in their graveyard research. They have about a dozen hostages as they took pictures

Tutorial session on how to use Social Media

History Related - developer to hope to have the mill done, Gastonia Mill, digital innovation lab at UNC, museum within the mill building digital innovation lab created a database of the employees, search on someone's name, where they lived, what job they had, what money they made, etc. a nice program to tie into the history for the mil and mill villages...

Public history intertwined with historic preservation

Museum of our Industrial Heritage - video of going inside a historic building 3d virtual tour.

the interesting history was the precision manufacturing was what was really interested

record the histories, and interview the propel

Miller's Falls Industrial History

CT River Valley was the Silicon Valley of the 19th century