

Email sent - August 25, 2009

**Materials Reuse Network/deconstruction  
Meeting Notes  
From Aug 19, 2009 meeting**

Introductions (see attached sign in sheet for those in attendance)

Sherill gave short overview about deconstruction – its role in C & D reuse and recycling, economic development and challenges the industry faces.

Discussion about challenges/opportunities:

Elliot Henowitz, DPS, shared GOOD NEWS:

- Currently need demolition ‘registration’ to conduct most deconstruction.
- Demolition registration requires 3 years of demolition experience
- Moving to ‘testing’ process instead of ‘3 years demolition experience
- Propose to have it be a ‘license’ instead of registration
  - Unclear what the ‘test’ will include – but assume will address understanding and/or certification re: lead and asbestos, OSHA, plus experience and schooling
  - Engineers will probably be automatically qualified.
- The process will be about a year for DPS’ process to change from registration to testing/license.
- DPS will provide opportunities for MRN/deconstruction to provide input.

*What this means: Currently deconstruction contractors have to prove 3 years of demolition experience, regardless if they are skilled in their ability to deconstruct, and as a result do not qualify for a demolition registration (which is required to engage in most deconstruction activities). By creating a ‘testing’ process, deconstruction contractors who have years of experience in their ‘type’ of demolition – should be recognized for their skills and experience and hopefully more likely to ‘pass’ with a demolition license. They will still need certain qualifications, but will hopefully not require specific ‘demo experience’ as part of that qualifying criteria.*

**Other issues discussed and/or need to be discussed further:**

What is structural vs. non-structural

i.e. definition for ‘soft-stripping’ may not be consistent with DPS understanding on non-structural activities that are ‘okay’ without current demolition registration. Ex. Lisa Humble felt that removing the flooring was structural.

Historic preservationists a bit concerned about the concept of ‘soft-stripping’ – ie sounds like pillage/plunder of potentially historic structures...

Waste Hierarchy

Sherill's powerpoint included 'deconstruction' waste hierarchies – that included preservation (historic, embodied energy), reuse (renovation, historic, embodied energy), deconstruction, recycle, waste-to-energy, landfill.

Helen Higgins, CT Historic Preservation Trust shared she liked the hierarchy; clearly a point of intersection for historic preservation community and deconstruction folks.

#### Incentives to increase deconstruction/C & D recovery

To increase reuse and recovery of materials – different incentives and opportunities will hopefully develop. However, Helen CHPT shared concern – that increased promotion of 'old goods' and/or architectural salvage type materials may increase 'strip outs' – without trying to preserve/reuse the structure... and may do pillaging/plundering in general.

From the perspective of the preservation community, deconstruction does equal demolition, for once the building is gone, it's gone, regardless of how... however, the deconstruction industry is viewed as allies to the historic preservation community – that when a building will not be preserved, deconstruction does preserve the embodied energy/some historical artifacts.

Existing model: Larry French shared that asbestos and lead abatement programs are offered by private institutions of higher education (like EMC1) and these 'certification programs' are approved/recognized by DPH. This is a model that perhaps could be replicated – with DPS approving deconstruction programs offered by community colleges or other training programs.

Dave Bennink shared his 3 levels of deconstruction:

- Salvage
- Strip Out
- Structure

He's working with Chicago on a unique program for "ex-convicts" – a 2 year project – where folks come into the program for a year and will gain experience in the 3 tiers of deconstruction, transport of materials from deconstruction sites to restores and working a building material retail operation. This program will create a labor pool to increase deconstruction activities in Chicago.

Dave B also shared that BMRA (Building Materials Reuse Association) is in the process of creating a certification program that will be recognized nationally.

#### Education/training for local building inspectors

- Elliot provides the training and has a training manual for local building inspectors
- Lisa Humble communicates with them electronically – although a handful of communities are not on-line
- Susan Chandler shared she liked DPS's Q & A format on their website to help folks understand certain regulations – perhaps this is a good model to help deconstruction contractors understand different regulations that apply to them.

- Lisa said this used to be in their newsletter – which they no longer create – and that it will be difficult to recreate this for Lisa’s staff has been drastically reduced due to early retirements.

**Updates/News:**

CT Recyclers Coalition has invited MRN to attend their “No Frills Tour” if interested. No frills, because you drive yourself and nothing is included except the tour. Oct 1 – in New York - morning for arts reuse center – afternoon building materials reuse center (deconstruction component) – attend one or both. (See attached flyer that was handed out – created to be a ½ sheet double sided)

**NEXT MEETING: Thursday, September 24, 2pm EST**  
DEP, 79 Elm St., Hartford

Proposed Agenda

Main topic: Economic development, job training, job creation, certification.

GUEST SPEAKER: Rosita Forte-Dobson will open the meeting describing her agency and the types of resources available to small businesses...

Possible Discussion Questions:

- How can we increase deconstruction, building materials reuse centers and other businesses, what types of assistance are out there?
  - I keep getting asked for economic data – what do we need to know? How do we get the data?
  - What's the demand for workers trained in deconstruction?
  - Where are these trained workers most likely to work?
  - What's the potential for growth of deconstruction in CT?
  - How widespread is deconstruction now in CT?
  - Other?
- Are contractors in CT taking advantage of the economic and environmental benefits of deconstruction?
  - How to create incentives to increase use of deconstruction...
- What types of training are being provided in CT... BMRA, Yestermorrow etc.
  - 
  - What's *not* being offered – do we need other types of training?
  - Do we need more retail?
  - Train assessors to evaluate value of goods (non-profit model)
  - What else do we need?
- Other

Updates/News

- New Haven C & D Zero waste project (Lil/Walter?)
- Reusable Greenworks – new business model? (Vinny/Pete?)
- CRC No Frills Tour, Oct 1, 10-4, Materials for the Arts, Long Island City, NY & BIG NYC! Astoria, NY (see attached)
- AIA CT - [Design for Deconstruction / Construction Waste Management: Salvage-Reuse-Recycle](#) - September 29, 2009, 1-4pm, New Haven
- Other

**The Materials Reuse Network (MRN):** A group of professionals interested in materials reuse who want to increase deconstruction activities in Connecticut. More deconstruction may increase reuse and recovery efforts of construction, renovation and demolition debris and surplus/salvaged goods in Connecticut. All are welcome to meetings. To be added to the MRN email list, email [Sherill.Baldwin@ct.gov](mailto:Sherill.Baldwin@ct.gov).

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**TO BE REMOVED** FROM THE MRN/deconstruction E-List – please email [Sherill.Baldwin@ct.gov](mailto:Sherill.Baldwin@ct.gov)