

CT MRN
September 15, 2010
Notes

Attendance: Vincent Mastriano, Lil Snyder, Walter Esdaile, Sherill Baldwin

Phone: Joe DeRisi, Charles Paonessa, Chris Stefanowicz, Chris Beling, Ted Reiff, Mary Ann Remolador, Tom Petschauer

EPA Lead Rule Update (Chris Beling)

-How will it impact building material reuse centers?

-Chris said that in June 2009 the conversation began – but no plans for a position or rule from EPA about reuse centers. A white paper was being drafted which led to a lot of discussion – but not clear how to proceed. Reducing lead is a priority for EPA, yet EPA also wants to support reuse. At this point there is no stance. They're looking to groups like BMRA to help come up with some basic data (number of buildings, nationally, that are being/could be salvaged annually or overall, cost of testing/amount of lead, monetary value of materials in reuse stores that may/may not have lead etc.

-Chris pointed to CET's ReStore for Home Improvement in Springfield. John Majercak has developed an OSHA cleaning station at the restore for employees (to reduce exposure to a number of potential hazards) – she considers them a 'sophisticated reuse center'.

-Do they provide lead training? Chris said they provide lead training for both staff and the contractors they work with.

-Ted shared that HfH restores often have signs that say "assume all painted materials are lead based paint" – a buyers beware approach.

Local Building Inspector Training (Sherill Baldwin)

-Sherill followed up after last meeting with Elliot Henowitz who said Lisa Humble is the better contact for this project. Sherill has left a message with Lisa but has not heard back.

UPDATE (9/22/10): Lisa Humble was very interested in hearing about a possible training program for local building inspectors that could be part of a larger 'green/sustainability' topic they hope to provide to local building inspectors in January 2011.

Decon '11 Update (Sherill Baldwin)

-Welcome Reception at ArtSpace – all small businesses and non-profits interested in being part of Decon '11 are encouraged to consider helping sponsor the 'welcome reception' – it will be the Sunday evening which starts off the conference – and a great opportunity for CT businesses to welcome others in the business to Connecticut. Smaller businesses who can't participate at other levels of sponsorships (which starts at \$1500) are encouraged to help with the Welcome Reception (\$25-\$250 sponsorships are suggested).

-Sponsorship? –Interested? Contact Charles Paonessa 860.883.2013

-Vendor/Exhibitor? Contact Dave Bennink 360.201.6977 (note: he's Pacific Time)

-Interested in volunteering? Contact Sherill Baldwin sherill.baldwin@ct.gov
Call for Presenters will be sent out in October – folks are encouraged to submit a presentation idea, panel idea etc. if they're interested in sharing their project, program, efforts etc.

Conference Program includes:

May 15th Welcome Reception at ArtSpace

May 16th Conference opens, full day of sessions (incl. keynotes); poster session reception

May 17th Full day of sessions

May 18th Half day of sessions, optional afternoon tours

May 19th Deconstruction or C&D Recycling Training and Accreditation

Still room for folks if they want to get involved in any of the committees.

DEP C & D Recycling and Waste Management webpage update (Sherill)

- Sherill reviewed the new pages
- Sherill shared a proposed DECONSTRUCTION & DEMOLITION webpage seeking input
- Folks liked the 5R's hierarchy of deconstruction
- Folks felt information should be included about buying/using the used building materials to help the sales of the material
- Sherill will take suggestions and continue to draft. She's hoping it will be complete and published in November/December.

CT MRN – What's the future of this group?

Goals developed by the group in Nov 2008 when MRN formed:

1. Increase awareness of deconstruction/building material reuse
2. Increase the number of trained workers – skilled/low skilled in deconstruction
3. Help cut some of the red tape allowing deconstruction contractors to be able to get a demolition license

Results:

1. Created 2 brochures:
 - a. Guide to Local Building Material Reuse Centers
 - b. Deconstruction Contractors for Connecticut
2. "Landed" Decon '11 in Connecticut for May 2011!
3. Developed partnerships with CT Trust for Historic Preservation, CT Dept of Public Safety, CT Consumer Protection, CT Dept of Public Health and more.
 - a. DPS moved from a demolition registration to a license – which opens up opportunities for more professional deconstruction contractors

- b. DPS recognizes 'experience and training' when applying for a demolition license
- c. DPS looking at demolition definition in regulations and recognizes deconstruction as a type of demolition
- 4. Training programs and classes are being offered in CT (The Reuse People, Gateway, Naugatuck) – not only in deconstruction, but offerings have broadened to C & D recycling (WasteCap) and reusing building materials in construction (AIA CT)
- 5. Other:
 - a. CT Material Trader an operational on-line material exchange program came out of MRN and opened to other 'reusers'
 - b. Need for a C & D Reuse and Recycling listserv identified
 - c. New webpages helping contractors understand what they need to do to become a deconstruction contractor, where to find a deconstruction contractor, where to buy used materials etc. are in development.

So – what's next? Sherill shared she's not aware of any large issues that need to be addressed. Should the group continue or change focus?

-Chris S. said he liked the idea of opening it up to other materials – like demo gypsum

-others chimed in about wanting to talk about roofing shingles, plastic, carpet

Would folks be open to being folded into a general C & D reuse and recycling group?

-All seemed okay with that direction

UPDATE (9/22/10): Sherill's heard from others after the meeting about the idea of letting MRN end vs. keeping it going... other ideas/viewpoints:

Sherill, Lil and Walter - discussed at end of meeting the idea of changing the focus of MRN to the arts. When group originally formed it named itself the Material Reuse Network – intentionally not stating what material knowing it might change or broaden focus. Sherill shared she's been having conversations with a couple of different art groups in New Haven area about a reuse center for the arts. Should MRN stay a group but phase into a new focus – the arts?

Joe – is okay with DEP’s led MRN ending – but feels a group should continue in some form – perhaps a CT BMRA chapter – would like to discuss this further under DEP umbrella or at DECON ’11.

CT MRN is ‘sponsoring’ the Welcome Reception at DECON ’11 – Sherill’s thinking MRN should continue until DECON ’11 when it reshapes – perhaps into a local BMRA chapter and/or MRN focuses on arts reuse or ??

Do you have ideas or thoughts about the future of CT MRN? Share them with Sherill.Baldwin@ct.gov

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

CT Material Trader – Connecticut’s on-line dating service for our stuff

- More activity and use – very exciting – folks are encouraged to keep using. Have heard of many successes.

CT C & D Reuse and Recycling listserv – it’s up and running. To join contact Sherill.Baldwin@ct.gov

Upcoming courses/classes

- Gateway Community College’s Deconstruction course taught by Joe DeRisi is starting in October – will run 6 weeks, cost is about \$230.
- Naugatuck Valley Community College has also scheduled an adult class in deconstruction this fall – in October, Charlie Paonessa is the instructor. One night (Oct 14th). Cost \$39.
- Reuse People just completed training in Bridgeport and have another planned for Bridgeport and Hartford Youth Build.

New Reuse Centers

-Middlesex County – no news

UPDATE (9/22/10): Spoke to Jack Doyle, HfH Middlesex is in the process of collecting materials and funds. They are hoping to open at the end of October. They have a site in Cromwell. They’ll keep the group posted and Sherill will share info of their opening/open house on the listserv. If you have donations for them – contact Jack Doyle at 860.788.6483 (HfH Middlesex office).

Next CT MRN Meeting:

TBA

Notes submitted by Sherill Baldwin, 9/22/2010