



Steering Committee Meeting Notes

2 PM – 3 PM

July 24, 2024

Present:

Amy Cunningham; Christopher Kaufman Ilstrup; Eileen Corcoran; Jamie Duggan; Joseph Watson; Katelynn Averyt; Megan Johnson-Saylor; Paddy Reagan; Rachel Onuf; Taiga A. Christie; Tom McMurdo; Laura Trieschmann; Meg Campbell (Preservation Trust of Vermont)

Agenda:

Preservation Trust of Vermont has been invited to attend (and potentially join...) our Steering Team meetings. Meg Campbell, Vice President of PTV, was able to attend today's meeting as a proxy for Ben Doyle, PTV President.

Reflection on initial response to July 2024 storms

- Response with each other and constituents was quick
- Rachel took notes on communications that can live in VACDaRN land
- Rachel and Amy took the lead on communication with impacted folks that filled out the Google form. Guidance was shared about what to do RIGHT NOW with tips helpful to artists and private nonprofits.
- A Plainfield artist whose home and studio were destroyed in the flood was connected with CERF+
- Providing shared access to responses to the Google form worked well for making sure information was available to everyone
- UPDATE on the Sanborn Covered Bridge in Lyndon (Laura): Working daily with town funders and regulators to know what needs to be done. There was an initial visit the next day and then another one week later. Right now ANY water/weather issue will damage the bridge. It is notably bent and has shifted on abutments. The abutments are cracking and failing. It has been advised that it be moved immediately and the State Historic Preservation Office has declared it an emergency. They are trying to find crane big enough to come and move it. Funders are coming together for restoration and move.

- Damages to municipal parks (notably Wrightsville Reservoir)—Christopher asked if this is in our area of work? We don't have resources in VACDaRN to help with this. Laura has been reporting parks issues to Doug Farnham, chief recovery officer. Park damage should also be reported to the state emergency director/coordinator.
- Get Thee to the Funnery summer camp (NEK) (Christopher): Some kids will likely not be able to come to camp due to financial issues of families impacted by the flooding. Vermont Humanities will likely provide funds for free enrollment for the kids. Families should apply for individual assistance and look for any local community assistance. Report to state emergency management director/coordinator to record families that are unhoused.
- No new reports outside of Google form from Vermont Humanities
- Shared info from form with Sen Welch office and other private funders. Laura has shared information from the form with other folks at the state
- Vermont Libraries (Tom): No substantial damage reported from any libraries. There was a little seepage and small amounts of water in basements. Plainfield and Lyndon libraries were both unscathed.
- Vermont Emergency Management (Taiga): Disaster assessment and the request for a disaster declaration is in process but moving slower than last year. Immediate response activity is getting closed out. Things taking longer doesn't mean there are problems, just that work is happening on a more typical FEMA timeline. Reminder to manage expectations of folks.

Day of Learning Planning Team updates

- Almost ready to open registration
- Team has identified potential presenters and is filling in presentation details
- Event is confirmed for Tuesday, Sept 17 in downtown Barre. The Elks Lodge will be the main venue with sessions and tours at the Aldrich Library, Studio Place Arts, Old Labor Hall, and Vermont History Center.
- Spread the word and share the link once registration opens!
<https://www.vermontartscouncil.org/programs/disaster-resilience-network/>

Other updates

- Vermont Humanities is working on application to the National Endowment for the Humanities Climate Smart grant program. Application is due September 18. (Christopher)