

**CT MRN**  
**June 9, 2010**  
**Notes**

**Attendance:** Mary Bennett, Helen Higgins, Elliot Henowitz, Vincent Mastriano, Bill Stapleton, John Gundling, Melissa Maciag, Ross Bunnell, Sherill Baldwin

**Phone:** Joe DeRisi, Mike Yurish, Randy Anway, Charles Paonessa, Chris Stefanowicz, Jenna Mikus

Update from Dept of Public Safety (Elliot Henowitz)

-They're working on definition in statute, to clarify what they are regulating. They will continue to move towards testing to ensure demo/decon contractors have necessary training and skills. They will give credit for training and schooling and construction experience – including new construction. The end result will be a 'license' instead of registration. DPS will be keeping the A & B licensing levels.

October 1, 2010 – statutes allow for DPS to provide a written test (my apologies, I couldn't find a link to it on-line, SB)

The **NEW License application is already on the DPS web page** – apply for or check out DPS's NEW application for a demolition license for the "designated technical expert"  
**Office of State Fire Marshal - Bureau of License and Permits – Demolition**  
<http://www.ct.gov/dps/cwp/view.asp?a=2149&q=294278>

Discussion: Structural vs. non-structural

Sherill wondered if defining what is and is not structural would help deconstruction contractors – the activity or their activities would help them understand when they were in need of a demolition license.

Elliot shared hesitation for DPS to hone in on structural vs. non-structural activities as it relates to demolition, renovation or deconstruction.

Someone shared they felt that guidelines were needed to help building inspectors know more about deconstruction – when it was decon vs. renovation which requires a building permit - currently up to building inspector, based on *building* plans -

When should a deconstruction contractor visit/see the local building inspector?

Suggested answer – at beginning to review the plans – Deconstruction contractors should have written plans for building inspectors to review

Building inspectors don't get deconstruction – should there be a short course for building inspectors about deconstruction?

Need to recognize, from state perspective, deconstruction is a type of demolition

Any alteration in a historical building is structural change – including taking out windows (ex. the window frame) – Helen cautious about defining structural vs. non-structural. She and her staff had a discussion prior to meeting and made a list of things they thought were structural elements that would require a demo permit (find scanned document: CT Trust Thoughts for MRN meeting 6.9.10)

Structural – defined in state building code – demolition license required – load bearing/change integrity of house

Structural – rules for historic preservation – change integrity of the house

Elliot is not keen on listing out what is or is not structural – too many grey areas. However – guidelines are needed.

Sherill asked – is it worth trying to define structural??

Helen and her staff (CT Preservation Trust) had a discussion prior to meeting and made a list of things they thought were structural elements that would require a demo license (find scanned document: CT Trust Thoughts for MRN meeting 6.9.10)

Renovation activities can (and do) impact historical preservation – but they are not demo/decon

Demo vs. building permit – building permit usually means 'occupied' – so does a demolition strike less interest for a building inspector?

Process should start at the building permit office

Mike – owner gets the building permit; but they get the demo permit – deconstruction contractor in this example never links/connects with building inspector

Need to educate building inspectors – early conversations Ross and Sherill had with Lisa Humble and Elliot were to create presentation for building inspectors – is there still an interest?  
Continuing education for building officials

Terminology is also part of the issue –

- Soft-stripping doesn't equal deconstruction (for some);
- deconstruction = taking down the whole building to its foundation;
- removing doors and cabinets doesn't equal deconstruction

Sherill said that historically many 'deconstruction contractors' have been limited to removing only doors and cabinetry, flooring and mantels etc. because of the challenge in getting a demolition registration; the NEW demo license process should open the door for more deconstruction contractors to get a license.

We should pick some building inspectors to help us develop a training program

Should review/connect with the building code – state building codes

-basic info to cover:

- industry perspective; why happening, why more decon now?
- code perspective
- environmental health & safety aspects
- historic angle

Decon is demo pre 1960's – and the old building codes (most of which we still have) probably support this activity (decon) – need to review – there's got to be a precedent

Ask Joe and Mike about their experience with building inspectors (plus New Havens'?)

**Result:** Group said it's not worth defining structural/non-structural – time should be spent working with DPS to create/provide a training program for the local building inspectors. Sherill and Ross said they would both be open to provide this training. Sherill will follow up with Lisa Humble and Elliot about timing/scheduling etc.

### DECON '11 update:

-Dates have been finalized: May 15<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> 2011

#### Conference Program includes:

**May 15<sup>th</sup>** Evening reception at ArtSpace, show of art work from salvaged, found objects

**May 16<sup>th</sup>** Conference opens, full day of sessions (incl. keynotes); poster session reception

**May 17<sup>th</sup>** Full day of sessions

**May 18<sup>th</sup>** Half day of sessions, optional afternoon tours

**May 19<sup>th</sup>** Deconstruction or C&D Recycling Training and Accreditation

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

### new lead Renovation, Repair and Painting (RRP) program

- Was hoping Chris Beling might be able to give us an update on a white paper EPA is drafting, but she was unable to join us for this meeting
- This was discussed at length at last CT MRN meeting – see Meeting Notes from March 2010 for more information and discussion of how impacts building materials reuse industry

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

- Sherill said she and Melissa, who's working at DEP for the summer, are working on revising the C & D recycling and waste web pages – it will include a page on deconstruction & demolition – to make sure folks know about DPS licensing etc.
- Melissa's created a new brochure – like the one listing building material reuse centers – but this one will list deconstruction services in CT. She provide a DRAFT Deconstruction Services in CT brochure (note: the draft viewed during meeting has already been updated, so the link here is for the latest draft when meeting notes were written) If you have comments or suggestions, please send to [sherill.baldwin@ct.gov](mailto:sherill.baldwin@ct.gov)

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

- DEP will be starting it's outreach/promotion campaign in July and encourages EVERYONE to join this on-line materials exchange and begin to post materials
- Joe mentioned he could use some help posting items

Other – suggested topics for next meeting? Please let Sherill know

### **Next CT MRN Meeting:**

Wednesday, **September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2-4pm** at DEP Main Headquarters, Hartford

Notes taken by Sherill Baldwin