

Materials Reuse Network “Deconstruction”

- Notes

December 18, 2008

Present: Rick Roberts, Diane Vasseur, Dan German, Bill Coleman, Marshall Gaston, David McKeegan, Dave Giese, Matt McKinney, John G. Powers, Kim Trella, David Cooper, Josh Cohen, Ross Bunnell, Michael Boyer, and Sherill Baldwin

1. Project history and overview
2. Introductions
3. Facilitated discussion:
 - a. Markets/Where we need deconstructors
 - b. Audience categories for ‘education and training’ and who would provide
 - c. Current licensing structure
 - d. Certification
4. Next steps
5. Current resources

Sherill shared the project started with a conversation at Green Drinks with Joe DeRisi and Rick Roberts. Over a couple of months, the conversation developed into what could be done to increase deconstruction, which seemed to be at a pivotal spot to increase building materials reuse. A small meeting occurred at DEP in November to discuss challenges and opportunities to increase deconstruction. This resulted in the desire for more skilled/trained professionals and the desire for training projects/programs, the need to market/promote used building materials and to examine current codes or policies impacting deconstruction activities at the local level.

After introductions, Sherill facilitated a discussion that included where do we need deconstructors, who is the audience for training programs and who might provide them and how certification can be an incentive (see list below). The discussion about education ideas was altered when the discussion of the current licensing structure came up. Everyone felt this needs to be addressed before training programs are developed – without a licensing structure that allows more deconstruction, we shouldn’t be training folks.

Markets/Need for Deconstructors

- Condemned buildings
- Brownfields
- Commercial/institutional buildings – including hospitals
- Any renovation work

- House/residential
- Barns/Agricultural buildings
- Warehouses/mills
- Bridges/tunnels
- Tank farms/utility towers/waste water plants
- Railroads/highways
- Old vessels/ships (aka ship breaking)

Who/Audience

Format/Structure of activity

- | | | |
|--|-----|--|
| • Unskilled/lowskilled labor | >>> | Job training/create working crews |
| • Contractors – add deconstruction to their | >>> | GTSC |
| • List of ‘green building’ skills | | |
| • High school students | >>> | Platt Tech, Milford, Eli Whitney?, Hartford |
| • Existing crews – who perform ‘hand demolition*’ | >>> | Alternative demo training;
Increased training/skills, increases job
status (ie more money) |
| • College – new/existing professional contractors | >>> | design local program like national institutes |
| • Supervisors/company owner level (those who hold license) | >> | Certification program (college?) |
| • Construction mgmt & sustainable building | >>> | Certification program (college?) |
| • Mid-career professionals | >>> | Certification program (college?) |
| • Employee training program | >>> | |

*in this case, hand demolition was referring to crews that gut out buildings before ‘equipment’ demolishes the building. They receive on the job training and work for demolition companies who carry the Demo license.

Current licensing issue (summary – some discussed and some added for clarification):

1. Most deconstruction activities currently occur in residential structures (up to 2 ½ stories). This is done with a Home Improvement Contractor registration.
2. To conduct any type of deconstruction in any building or structure other than a 2 ½ story residential home, you need a demolition license.
3. Currently the different types/levels of deconstruction are all viewed as demolition – deconstructors cannot provide even soft stripping in commercial buildings.
4. Deconstructors *can* work as a subcontractor under the Demolition contractor (apparently this is rare).
5. Demolition licenses require proof of 3 years of demolition experience – which is prohibitive to most deconstruction contractors.

Next steps:

Invite the State Building Inspector to our next meeting to learn more about demolition licensing and discuss the issues of deconstruction.

Tentative date for next meeting: Thursday, January 22, 2pm.

Notes submitted by Sherill Baldwin