

**Coltsville Special Resource Study
Public Meeting
South Congregational Church, Hartford, CT
December 14, 2009
5:30 PM**

Report on Public Comments

Approximately 40 members of the public attended the public meeting on the Coltsville Special Resource Study (SRS). At the start of the meeting, Associate Regional Director Robert McIntosh and Project Manager James O'Connell, of the National Park Service Northeast Region, made a Powerpoint presentation on the contents and background of the Coltsville SRS. NER Chief of Park Planning & Compliance Terrence D. Moore took comments and questions from the audience.

John Rossi, District Office Director for Congressman John B. Larson, expressed the Congressman's disappointment at not being able to attend the public meeting due to business in Washington. Mr. Rossi explained that he and Congressman Larson had met with the Colt Gateway developer, Lance Robbins, and representatives of the state and city government three days earlier to obtain a status report on making part of the Colt East Armory available for an NPS unit. He reported that the Colt Gateway developer said that he was getting closer to securing financing the redevelopment of the East Armory and that he expected a firm commitment soon. Rossi said that Congressman Larson was making it a priority to address the feasibility issues in the report for the establishment of an NPS unit at the Colt East Armory.

Hartford Mayor Eddie Perez expressed the City's support for a national park unit, saying that it would build upon several projects that had already contributed to the redevelopment of the Coltsville neighborhood.

Colt Gateway developer Lance Robbins, of Urban Smart Growth, said he has been working on the Colt project for 22 months and that financing seems to be coming together. He is committed to working with NPS to establish a park unit in the Colt East Armory.

Seven members of the public expressed their support for a Coltsville NPS unit, and asked various questions about how the project might be realized once the Coltsville SRS has been submitted by the Secretary of the Interior to Congress. One person stated that it is important to preserve the Colt factory, but that it could be done more effectively by the private sector.

The public comment period posted on the NPS Planning Environment and Public Comment (PEPC) website lasted from November 13 until December 18, 2009. Three comments were received on PEPC. Two written comments were submitted at the public meeting, and four written comments were sent directly to the NPS Northeast Regional Office. Each of these comments expressed support for establishing a Coltsville NPS unit except one comment, which simply requested that the commenter be kept on the project mailing list.

All written comments whether received by mail or through PEPC are on file at the offices of the National Park Service, 15 State Street, Boston, MA and available by appointment for public inspection by contacting Jim O'Connell, Coltsville SRS project manager at 617-223-5222.

A summary of the written comments follows.

