



# The SPEXpert

The Newsletter by and for the Members of the Housatonic Chapter of The Construction Specifications Institute

## Stay Current

with what's happening in the Housatonic Chapter

Join us every 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month for our regular meeting, dinner and some education.

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September 2018

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- MIT Project Explores Design Potential of Mass Timber
- ASHRAE guide outlines changing energy sector

### Events:

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- CSI Northeast Regional Conference 2019
- CONSTRUCT 2018: Long Beach, CA

### Features:

- Presidential Ponderings
- Chapter Meeting Minutes the lighter side:
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## Tuesday, September 18

program:

### Bridgeport Microgrid Project

Presented by O,R&L Construction

time/location:

4:30 pm,  
Bridgeport Microgrid  
Dinner, TBD

## Tuesday, October 16

program:

### Blackrock Fireproof Column

Presented by TBD

time/location:

6:00 pm,  
Citrus Restaurant, Milford

## Presidential Ponderings

Hello Housatonians,

The Chapter leadership convened in August to shore up the programs for the fall and the continuance to keep our chapter going for another 50 years! I won't be around to see it but I have been a part of this chapter for 31 years. Why did I join? I was a newly registered architect and wanted to network with other professionals. (Was network even a term in 1987?)

CSI afforded me the opportunity to interact with the layers of the construction industry. The design team of architects and engineers, the product technical and sales representatives, and contractors who brought the project to completion. The drawings were the visual component of the design but the contract language and specifications were a part of the project which lawyers could hang their hat upon.

Very little time was spent on specifications in my formal architectural education. CSI would now provide an opportunity to remedy that deficiency. Monthly meetings allowed for social interaction with peers and brought knowledge on topics of interest. Region conventions expanded that realm and brought members and their spouses to locales in the northeast to explore. Those friendships fostered travel throughout the country and experience that allowed for greater working knowledge of projects I could have only read about.

As I experienced the growth of my career through a chapter meeting to the big stage of national conventions, we are excited about our September site visit. This visit to a microgrid in Bridgeport provides the opportunity, once again, to interact with the designers, product representatives and contractors on a given project. Could we have thought of this idea of a stand-alone power source which could interact with the large electrical grid of the region?

Join us this September and throughout the year as we continue to learn about our profession.

Best regards, Bill

*William Selski, CSI, CDT, RA; President, CSI Housatonic Chapter*

Interested in attending?  
contact  
Roy Olsen, CSI CCS  
[rolsen@jci.com](mailto:rolsen@jci.com)

## Bridgeport Microgrid Project

**O,R&L Construction** will host this month's educational session by conducting a tour of The Bridgeport Microgrid facility. Tuesday September 18<sup>th</sup> at 4:30. Chapter meeting and dinner to follow.

The microgrid system, constructed by O,R&L for the City of Bridgeport, will provide a central, independent and local generating facility to supply and distribute power in island and parallel modes to City Hall, Police Headquarters and the Golden Hill Senior Center.

The microgrid in general will serve approximately 144,000 citizens of Bridgeport. In addition, the generators' excess heat will be utilized to provide both heating and cooling by way of an absorption chiller to City Hall, Police headquarters and the Cabaret Buildings.

It is the first in Connecticut to couple a new traditional natural gas reciprocating engine generator that can run around the clock in all types of weather with a microgrid distribution system. This system will give the city the option to expand in the future to other vital city buildings.

### COMPARING NUMBERS

#### MINIMUM ELECTRICAL PRODUCTION:

*5,326,530 kWh per year*

#### ANNUAL ENERGY SAVINGS:

*The CHP System uses 56,802 MMBtu/Year to operate. Traditional sources of energy (power plant & natural gas plant) would have used 142,356 MMBtu/Year.*

*This is a savings of **85,554 MMBtu/Year** or a **60% reduction**. It's also the equivalent energy usage of 1,353 vehicles or 381 homes.*

#### ANNUAL EMISSION SAVINGS:

*Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emission Reduction Equivalent: 54 cars or 38 homes.*

### Other Advantages

1. Virtual Net Metering
2. Energy Reqs
3. Capacity Charge
4. Demand Response
5. Deregulate Gas Commodities
6. Tax Benefits - 100% Depreciable



Take a Virtual tour:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?time\\_continue=23&v=gMT-OpmpkUs](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=23&v=gMT-OpmpkUs)

## MIT Project Explores Design Potential of Mass Timber

A project developed through the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) class has come up with an energy efficient design for a large wood building. For this structure, called “the Longhouse,” massive timbers made of conventional lumber would be laminated together like a kind of supersized plywood.



The design will be presented in October at the [Maine Mass Timber Conference](#) at the University of Maine’s [Wells Conference Center](#).

The structure designed by the class uses laminated veneer lumber (LVL), made into panels 15 m (50 ft) long, 3 m (10 ft) wide, and more than 152 mm (6 in.) thick.....

READ MORE ›

[https://www.constructionspecifier.com/mit-project-explores-design-potential-of-mass-timber/?qnewsletter=20180821&en\\_click=1&utm\\_campaign=2018-08-21&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=newsletter&utm\\_content=news](https://www.constructionspecifier.com/mit-project-explores-design-potential-of-mass-timber/?qnewsletter=20180821&en_click=1&utm_campaign=2018-08-21&utm_medium=email&utm_source=newsletter&utm_content=news)

## ASHRAE guide outlines changing energy sector

Are you prepared for distributed energy resources, energy storage, and smart grids? A new publication from the [American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-conditioning Engineers](#) (ASHRAE) will help building professionals prepare for the challenges and opportunities of designing efficient and grid-responsive buildings within the changing energy sector.....



“This primer was developed by a team of buildings experts across industries to provide a common language understanding of key topics that will affect our energy future,” said Sheila J. Hayter, P.E., ASHRAE president.....

READ MORE ›

[https://www.constructionspecifier.com/ashrae-guide-outlines-changing-energy-sector/?qnewsletter=20180731&en\\_click=1&utm\\_campaign=editorial&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=newsletter&utm\\_content=news](https://www.constructionspecifier.com/ashrae-guide-outlines-changing-energy-sector/?qnewsletter=20180731&en_click=1&utm_campaign=editorial&utm_medium=email&utm_source=newsletter&utm_content=news)

## Events:

### President's Night Out 2018

June 19, 2018 - The Housatonic Chapter hosted its annual Presidents Night/Awards Night at Portofino Restaurant in New Haven, recognizing the efforts and achievements of Chapter members. This is also a social event where members are encouraged to bring their spouse/significant other, to the meeting.

#### Awards:

Roy Olsen: CSI Housatonic Chapter Certificate of Appreciation.

Ross Spiegel: CSI Housatonic Chapter Certificate of Appreciation.

Bruce Wujcik: CSI Northeast Region 'Donald J Colosano Newsletter Award'.

### Housatonic & Hartford Chapters host the 2019 Northeast Region Conference

Theme: Challenges of Cold Weather Construction

Tentative date is May 16-18, 2019

Location is between Marriott in Hartford and Radisson in Cromwell

Region Conference Highlights include a table top trade show with 30 tables available on a first-come basis, at least 4 theme-related educational seminars with learning credits, Friday night Region banquet, and social activities for attendees and families among other goodies. There will be plenty of sponsorship opportunities for vendors, and others interested in promoting their products, or services to the CSI Northeast Region attendees.

### CONSTRUCT 2018 Make plans to attend

**CONSTRUCT** is the only dedicated national trade show and education conference for commercial building teams that spec ad source building products. **CONSTRUCT** links thousands of industry colleagues that are focused on practical, real-world knowledge for continued building success **CONSTRUCT** offers a variety of different solutions-driven learning opportunities for you to stay up-to-date on the latest trends, work smarter, boost your career, and earn continuing education credits.



For complete schedule and exhibition and educational information for this event visit:  
<https://www.constructshow.com/en/home.html.html>

Housatonic Chapter CSI  
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2018-2019

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Roy Olsen, CCS, CSI

Ross Spiegel, FCSI, CCS,  
CCCA

**Technical Committee  
Chairman**

Art Sanders, CCS, CSI

## Chapter Board Meeting Minutes August 21, 2018

**Present:** President William Selski; Vice President George Rosemond; Secretary Jay Strother; Treasurer Roy C. Olsen; Directors: Erin Kesegi, Bruce Wujcik, Ross Spiegel; Advisor to the Board Arthur Sanders; NERCSI Director Chris Meyers

**Guests:** none

*Call to Order 5:05 PM in Hoffman Architects office, Hamden, CT*

**SECRETARY:** Jay Strother: Jay Strother: Roy Olsen gave May and June report. Meyers moved to accept May and June report, Kesegi second. Motion Passed.

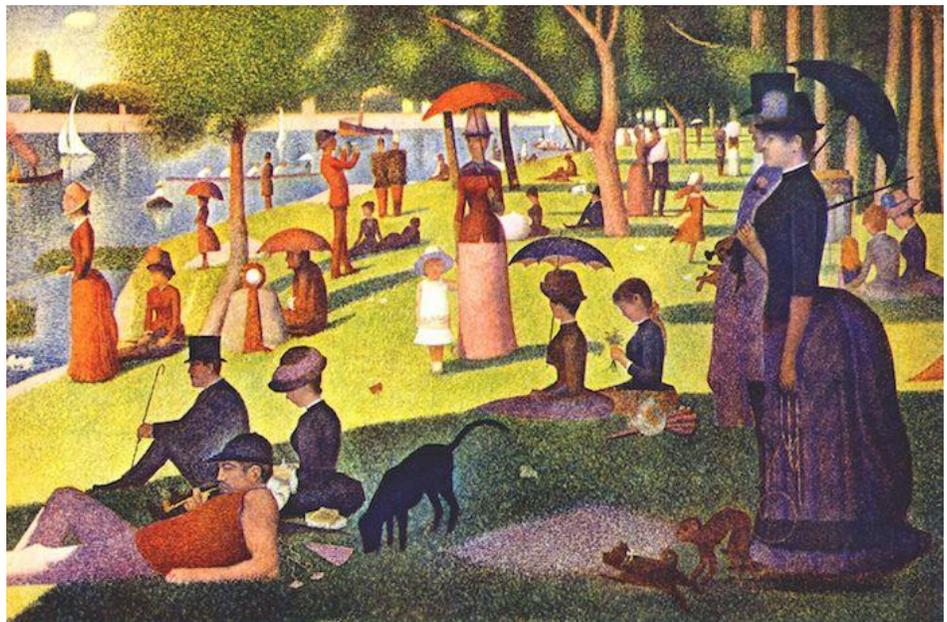
**TREASURER:** Roy C. Olsen: April, May and June report given. Kesegi moved to accept April, May and June report Strother second. Motion passed. 2019 Proposed Budget. Olsen moved to accept FY 19 Budget, Spiegel seconded. Motion passed.

### COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

1. ACADEMIC AFFAIRS LIAISON: Vacancy - No Report.
2. ADVERTISING: Erin Kesegi – Email request will be sent out requesting advertising in Newsletter. Invoices will be sent out to existing Newsletter advertisers
3. AWARDS: Bruce Wujcik – No Report.
4. CERTIFICATION: Ted Smith - No Report. Roy Olsen is looking for a location for testing.
5. EDUCATION: Roy Olsen – No Report.
6. TECHNICAL: Art Sanders - No Report.
7. MEMBERSHIP: Roy Olsen – Membership is stable at 29 members (24 Professional, 3 Emeritus, 1 Lifetime, 1 Emerging Professional)
8. PROGRAMS:
  - a. September 18: Bridgeport Micro-Grid Project
  - b. Pending Programs:
    - i. Blackrock Fireproof Columns possibly in October.
    - ii. Isolatek International – Sean Canfield.
    - iii. Total passive fire prevention.
    - iv. Additional programs to be pursued and scheduled during the summer board meeting. Blackrock Fireproof Column possibly in September.
9. SPEXPERT: *Bruce Wujcik; Due out Sept 10<sup>th</sup>. Plan is for one Spexpert to be released monthly. Board Members should be suggesting ideas/themes. Decided to continue with PDF format for Spexpert.*
10. OLD BUSINESS:
  - a. Product Table Top Display - No Report.
  - b. Chapter Merchandise: Discussed how to disperse Flash Drives.
  - c. Director's and Officer's Liability Insurance - Has been finalized and paid.
  - d. Guidelines for proper Board of Directors conduct: Tabled until summer board work session.
  - e. Chapter Web Presence – Through Regions assistance, Roster needs to be sent update Region's link to Housatonic.
11. NEW BUSINESS:
  - a. None

12. REGION BUSINESS:
  - a. Chris Meyers – Still negotiating with Hartford Hotels. Timeframe may slip to June.
13. INSTITUTE BUSINESS:
  - a. None
14. GOOD AND WELFARE OF THE CHAPTER:
  - a. No Report
15. NEXT MEETING:
  - a. September 18 at Bridgeport Microgrid Systems
16. ADJOURNMENT:
  - a. Olsen motioned, Strother seconded. Adjournment at 7:02 pm.

*END MEETING MINUTES*



*A Sunday Afternoon on the Island of La Grande Jatte; Georges Seurat, 1884*

### **Food for Thought:**

Constructive Thoughts: blog by Sheldon Wolfe

<http://swconstructivethoughts.blogspot.com/>

“Let’s Fix Construction” – industry related blog.

<http://www.letsfixconstruction.com/>

The Construction Specifier - the official magazine of CSI

<https://www.constructionspecifier.com/>

Specifications Consultants in Independent Practice – informational website

<http://www.scip.com/>

Lean Architecture – blog and resources

<http://www.leanarchitecture.com/>

Contact:

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**Notes from the Editor:**

Greetings! As the summer cools down (one can only hope) the Spexpert heats up.

This edition kicks-off the 2018-2019 fiscal year for the chapter and marks the beginning of the second year for the revived "award winning" Spexpert. It was with pride that I accepted, on behalf of the Housatonic Chapter, the New England Regional "Donald J. Colosano Newsletter Award" for publication of the 2017-2018 Spexpert. I hope to build on what has been accomplished so far to offer an interesting, informative and fun newsletter to our members and associates.

The intention of this monthly publication is to keep members and affiliates of the CSI Housatonic Chapter up to date on the activities of the chapter and other pertinent Design & Construction industry news and events. This will be an open forum for all, if you wish to contribute to the content or have read some articles that you feel might serve our community please submit them to the Editor for consideration. Thank you.....*Bruce Wujcik, AIA, CSI*

**the lighter side:**

**LIFE IN CONSTRUCTION**



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