

Newtown Creek Steering Committee Meeting
Tuesday, July 24, 2018
4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. ET

Attendees

Leah Archibald
Lisa Bloodgood
Willis Elkins
Christine Holowacz
Kelly MacDonald
Pat Field
Paul Pullo
Mike Schade
Mitch Waxman

1. Update from Facilitator Pat Field

- Pat Field (Consensus Building Institute [CBI]) shared an update regarding his progress getting oriented with the CAG. He noted that Willis Elkins and Kelly MacDonald updated the CAG membership list, and CBI is now in the process of determining who to interview. One of Pat's colleagues is reaching out to schedule interviews over the next four weeks. The draft interview questions were shared with the Steering Committee and CBI incorporated committee members' input into the final list of questions. CBI also plans to interview EPA staff. Pat estimated that the interviews will be completed after Labor Day and that CBI will then be ready to share its findings. Pat plans to provide a weekly update over the next month or so about the status of the interviews.

2. Concerns about Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)

- Mike Schade expressed concern about PFAS as an emerging contaminant. There is increased pressure on EPA to add these chemicals to the list of chemicals for Superfund regulation. He suggested asking EPA staff if PFAS has been included in investigations to date and, if not, recommending to EPA that it consider investigating the presence of PFAS in Newtown Creek sediments. Mike noted that he is happy to follow up with EPA on behalf of the Steering Committee after he discusses the legality of EPA's regulation of PFAS with the organization Earthjustice. Several Steering Committee members encouraged Mike to follow up.
- Pat suggested asking EPA if any PFAS compounds fall within the suite of standard EPA testing. He also shared that CBI has worked at another site where PFAS became an important issue. He asked Steering Committee members to contact him if they would like more information.

3. Technical CAG Meeting Tonight

- EPA is presenting tonight at the Newtown Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant at 7 p.m. They will present on biota sampling and responses to recommendations from EPA's Contaminated Sediments Technical Advisory Group (CSTAG).
- Mike recommended that meeting attendees review the CSTAG recommendations before the meeting and sent them out to the Steering Committee email list.
- Mitch Waxman asked about the organizational structure of the Technical Committee and its meetings and whether Willis will report back to the Steering Committee on the Technical Committee's findings. Willis shared that the notes from this meeting will be posted on the CAG website.

4. September CAG Meeting

- Willis shared that the next CAG meeting will be in September.
- The meeting date is not yet set. Kelly and Pat will work with EPA staff to confirm a date.
- Potential meeting topics include having the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) present on the Long-Term Control Plan (LTCP), having a discussion about navigational issues in the creek, and having the Newtown Creek Alliance (NCA) or Riverkeeper present the Vision Plan. If people have other suggestions, please send them to Willis.
- Willis plans to reach out to DEP to see if DEP staff can present at the September CAG meeting.

5. CAG Membership

- Over the past few months, Willis and Kelly have worked on updating the CAG membership list. This effort has included removing members who no longer attend meetings.
- Teresa Toro expressed interest in staying on as a CAG member. Steering Committee members confirmed her continued participation as a member.
- Kate Zidar expressed interest in remaining on the CAG in an emeritus position. Steering Committee members noted that she has valuable institutional knowledge and accepted her request. Kelly will email her and let her know that.
- Chris Lenard expressed interest in joining the CAG on behalf of the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce. He has already filled out the membership form. Willis made a motion to have him join; all Steering Committee members present were in favor. Kelly and Willis will review the bylaws for any additional requirements prior to confirming his membership.
- Kelly reached out to Thomas Grech of the Queens Chamber of Commerce to see if he wanted to join the CAG. She has not heard back. Mitch plans to follow up with him this week.
- Michael Devigne of the Maspeth Industrial Business Association (MIBA) expressed interest in joining the CAG. Willis made a motion; all Steering Committee members present were in favor. Kelly and Willis will review the bylaws for any additional requirements prior to confirming his membership.

- Mitch asked whether the Steering Committee has institutional memberships or personal memberships (i.e., if an institution or a person has a seat on the Steering Committee). Willis said that, as of now, committee memberships are personal memberships.
- Steering Committee members discussed committee membership further. Willis noted that constantly reviewing the membership list to remove people would be time consuming. Lisa suggested removing people at the end of each year or every two years. Pat said that CBI could track attendance at every meeting and maintain an attendance matrix. He also suggested establishing a ground rule for ending CAG membership based on lack of attendance, so members know the attendance expectations ahead of time.
- Pat asked if his colleague Rebecca Gilbert could be added to the Steering Committee email list. The Steering Committee approved her addition to the email list.
- Willis noted that some affiliations on the CAG website are outdated. He asked committee members to share their affiliations with Kelly so that she can update the CAG website.
- Erica Pajerowski expressed interest in joining the CAG at the last CAG meeting. Willis asked Kelly to send her the CAG member interest form.

6. Next Steering Committee Meeting

- The Steering Committee decided not to schedule a meeting in August. The Steering Committee will select a date for the September Steering Committee meeting once the date of the next general CAG meeting is determined.