

## **Newtown Creek CAG Steering Committee Call**

Tuesday, September 10, 2013

1:00 - 2:00 PM

### **Attendees**

Leah Archibald  
Lilli Genovesi  
Christine Holowacz  
Ed Kelly  
Ryan Kuonen  
Deb Mesloh  
Paul Pullo  
Jean Tanler  
Walker Holmes

### **Meeting Summary**

After a roll call, the steering committee members discussed the following topics:

1. **Leadership:** The CAG steering committee discussed the nomination of Mike Schade to both the steering committee and to serve a term as CAG co-chair. Mike works for the Center for Health, Environment, and Justice and is invested in the future of Newtown Creek; steering committee members described him as “a science guy” and agreed that this knowledge and skill set would serve the CAG well. According to CAG operating procedures, the full CAG must ratify, by consensus, the addition of new members to the steering committee and the nomination of new co-chairs. The steering committee came to a consensus agreement to bring Mike’s nomination for both the steering committee and the open co-chair position to the full CAG for ratification at the October meeting.
2. **CAG operations:** The steering committee discussed the need to revisit CAG operations and structure in a full CAG forum. Call participants agreed that the CAG should spend time discussing its function thus far and its vision for the future; however, they think that it is too early to do so. Two years from the CAG’s inception would be the soonest that the steering committee would want to recommend CAG operations as a stand-alone meeting topic. At that time, the CAG can discuss what has worked, what should be changed, and what goals the group would like to achieve moving forward.
3. **CAG website:** At the July CAG meeting, a member asked if the website could serve as a forum for discussion about site-related documents. The steering committee discussed this and agreed that, in theory, it would be a good use of the website and would allow discussion to continue in between meetings. One member cautioned that maintaining a productive forum will require time and attention on the part of the steering committee and asked if steering committee members are willing to commit to making the online conversation happen. The call participants also discussed moderation of the forum: some level of moderation would be necessary, but the group agreed that moderation should not verge on censorship – valid opposing positions should not be moderated out of the discussion. The group proposed that the CAG try out the online forum after the October meeting, when, presumably, remedial investigation-related documents will be available

and would be of sufficient interest to the CAG to spur post-meeting discussion on the website. The steering committee will revisit the issue at that time.

4. Next meeting: The steering committee members present on the conference call agreed to hold an October CAG meeting with Caroline Kwan, EPA remedial project manager for the Newtown Creek Superfund site, as a guest speaker. Caroline has offered to speak to the CAG about the remedial investigation. According to borough alternation procedures, the meeting will be held in Brooklyn. Of the dates posed by EPA, the steering committee chose Wednesday, October 23. Ryan Kuonen and Christine Holowacz are trying to secure a meeting space and will first check availability at the Newtown Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant visitor's center. A save the date will be posted to the CAG website while the location is being determined.
5. Next Steps:
  - a. Secure location for October 23 meeting.
  - b. Present Mike Schade's nomination to full CAG for ratification by consensus.
  - c. Pursue discussion forum on CAG website after October meeting.