

Newtown Creek CAG Steering Committee Meeting  
Wednesday, January 25, 2017  
6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

### **Present**

Leah Archibald  
Sean Dixon  
Willis Elkins (phone)  
Rosemary Han  
Laura Hofmann  
Ed Kelly  
Ryan Kuonen  
Mitch Waxman

### **Agenda**

1. 1/26/17 EPA Update Call
2. Technical Committee Update
3. 2/1/17 General CAG Meeting
4. CAG Membership
5. Other Updates
6. Steering Committee Participation

#### **1. 1/26/17 EPA Update Call**

- Steering Committee members planning to attend include **Mitch, Sean, Mike, Ryan** and **Willis**. Willis can facilitate the meeting.
- Agenda items to include:
  - General site updates since before the holidays
  - EPA presenting at the 2/1/17 general CAG meeting
  - Updates on the initial remedial investigation draft and remedial action
  - Arbitration filing from Newtown Creek Group (NCG) on Baseline Ecological Risk Assessment (BERA) findings
  - Upland sites – plan of action and coordination with New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS DEC)
  - Dredging – NCG and City are discussing dredging. How is EPA involved in the conversation?
  - Aeration and health – how is Superfund staff coordinating with EPA's Clean Water Division re: the potential recirculation of Superfund contaminants?
  - Neighborhood no-fishing signs

#### **2. Technical Committee Update**

- Technical Committee Meeting scheduled for Sunday night 1/29/17 to review BERA.
- The document has not been updated since the spring of 2015 – comments on the initial BERA draft by EPA, NCG and Skeo (Terrie) are available.
- After the review, the Technical Committee will summarize thoughts in a letter to EPA, to be reviewed by Steering Committee members before sending.

- Technical Committee and Willis have been handling internal Technical Committee team scheduling and communication.
- **A Technical Committee representative will present** at the 2/1/17 CAG meeting with big-picture findings or a user-friendly recap of the BERA draft for the wider CAG membership.

### 3. 2/1/17 General CAG Meeting

- Suggested agenda for 2/1/17 CAG meeting:
  - Steering Committee introductions and general attendee introductions (10 min)
  - BERA Presentation by Technical Committee (10 min)
  - NCG updates (5 min) and DEP updates (5 min) – followed by brief Q&A for CAG members, facilitated by Willis and Ryan (10 min)
  - EPA updates and presentation (20 min PowerPoint | 40 min of Q&A to follow)
  - Housekeeping: CAG membership reminder and amended bylaws to a vote (5 min)
- Action items: **Ryan** or **Willis** to send out invitations and requests for five-minute updates to NCG and DEP.
- For the 4/5/17 CAG meeting – New York City Economic Development Corporation has a dredging program for secondary channels, including Newtown Creek. They requested time to present to the Newtown Creek CAG audience.
  - DEC and New York City Planning (NYC Planning) will request time during the 4/5/17 CAG meeting to present on dredging and commercial navigability restraints in the East Chester area.
  - Ed suggested distributing attachments to the CAG mailing list if there are other higher-priority topics for future general CAG meetings. **Ed** can follow up with DEP and NYC Planning contacts if dredging topic is confirmed for 4/5/17 meeting.

### 4. CAG Membership

- Updating the membership list: Many CAG members have not attended meetings and some no longer live in the area. Emphasize the importance of coming to the 2/1/17 CAG meeting so that members are re-approved and retain an active vote.
- **Rosemary** will update the CAG website with the current list of Steering Committee members.
- Having a form available at the 2/1/17 CAG meeting for members of the general public who would like to become CAG members and be approved by the 4/5/17 CAG meeting. **Sean** can provide a Google Doc questionnaire for people to fill out at the 2/1/17 CAG meeting.
- Suggestion for the 2/1/17 CAG meeting to begin with around-the-room introductions where attendees introduce themselves.
- Bylaw revision – a smaller group of the Steering Committee can pull together a few bylaw revisions about membership and voting for the entire Steering Committee to vote on at next Steering Committee meeting.

## 5. Other Updates

- Riverkeeper received a grant to take the Newtown Creek community vision and develop a full report of recommendations based on community input. They will hire a staffer to begin the community outreach portion of the project in February 2017. The report will be finished around November, with the bulk of outreach from March to September.
- For the 4/5/17 CAG meeting – **Riverkeeper/Sean** to discuss this grant and solicit input from the CAG and general public.
- Newtown Creek and Gowanus meeting in lower Manhattan may be in the works for the future. Purpose would be to share experiences. **Mitch** to continue conversation with Gowanus contact.

## 6. Steering Committee Participation

- Suggestion to spend some time at next Steering Committee meeting on a refocusing session.
- Ongoing discussion of increasing participation and scheduling meeting times that work for majority of Steering Committee members.
- **Laura** to start a new email thread/poll to determine Steering Committee meeting times for monthly meetings.