

Newtown Creek Steering Committee Meeting
Wednesday, August 9, 2017
5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. ET

Attendees

Leah Archibald
Sean Dixon
Willis Elkins
Rosemary Han
Ryan Kuonen
Paul Pullo
Mike Schade
Mitch Waxman

1. July 25 CAG Meeting Recap

- Most of the fish signs are installed now. EPA is working with the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation to install a sign along Manhattan Avenue.

2. CAG / Skeo Services Coordination

- The Steering Committee requested a follow-up conversation with EPA to clarify the scope of Skeo's potential services for the CAG and the process to amend the contract if the CAG's administrative or scheduling needs change in the future. (Willis to follow up with Caroline Kwan)
- The CAG can work with Skeo (Terrie Boguski) on a new fact sheet summarizing human health risks and finalize the general fact sheet. The Steering Committee would like to have the fact sheets finalized so that they can be posted online and handed out to business owners. (Willis to follow up with Skeo)

3. September 2017 CAG Meeting

- Proposed date: Wednesday, September 13 from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. (Rosemary to follow up with EPA to confirm availability)
- The meeting will be held in Queens. Possible locations include:
 - Sunnyside Community Services on 43rd Street off Queens Boulevard. (Mitch will contact Sunnyside)
 - Backup locations include Sunnyside Library or LaGuardia Community College. (Willis will follow up with backups)
- EPA will share information on the Remedial Investigation Report.
- The meeting will include time for voting on new Steering Committee members.

4. July 20 EPA / Steering Committee Call Recap

- EPA is conducting sampling this summer, collecting core samples and analyzing them for non-aqueous phase liquids (NAPLs).
- EPA received the updated Ecological Risk Assessment in July 2017. EPA is doing a final review now to make sure all comments were properly addressed.
- EPA is coordinating with New York State Department of Environmental Conservation re: upland sites and those sites' potential impacts on Newtown Creek.
- EPA is anticipating the site's Record of Decision will be finalized by 2021. That timeframe is due to the need for additional seasonal studies such as the pilot ablation sampling studies.
- The next call with EPA is proposed for September 6 (preferred). Alternative call dates are September 8, 11 and 13. Preferred call times are 1 p.m., 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. (Rosemary to coordinate with EPA on availability)

5. Steering Committee Membership

- Two Queens business representatives stepped off the Steering Committee. The Steering Committee would like to add new members, with outreach focused on Queens and Bushwick representatives, business leaders, and emerging leaders interested in public health and environmental justice.
- The Steering Committee suggested reaching out to Council Member Reynoso (Bushwick-East Williamsburg) and the Queens Chamber of Commerce. (Leah will follow up with the Queens Chamber of Commerce)

6. Upcoming Events

- ExxonMobil has invited community leaders to tour its cleanup facility. The tour will take place in late September or early October 2017. It would be good to have Steering Committee members there. (Mitch will follow up to coordinate details)