

Newtown Creek Steering Committee Meeting
Wednesday, February 7, 2018
5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. ET

Attendees

Leah Archibald
Lisa Bloodgood
Mike Devigne (filling in for Quincy Ely-Cate)
Sean Dixon
Willis Elkins
Christine Holowacz
Ryan Kuonen
Kelly MacDonald
Paul Pullo
Mike Schade
Mitch Waxman

1. Upcoming Technical Committee Meeting (2/20)

- Willis Elkins and Natalie Loney (EPA Community Involvement Coordinator) discussed potential topics for the Technical Committee meeting and selected subsurface sediment contamination. Natalie mentioned concerns about data interpretation and how much EPA can say at this time. The Steering Committee wants to prepare questions to ask EPA at the meeting. Willis will compile a list of questions and share it with Natalie.
- The meeting still needs a venue. Committee members suggested considering regular locations for the Technical Committee meetings. Willis suggested McCarren Park Community Center and will follow up on this.

2. Facilitator

- Natalie provided Willis with an update on the new facilitator; EPA will have a list of potential candidates by next week for the Steering Committee's review. Committee members discussed having interviewees attend the next Steering Committee meeting. Willis will share this idea with Natalie.

3. CAG Membership and Leadership

- The Steering Committee co-chairs and Skeo began an effort to clarify the CAG membership by going through the current membership list and tracking past CAG meeting attendance. Committee members reviewed CAG meeting attendance records and selected attendees to email to inquire about their interest in continuing as CAG members. Willis and Kelly will proceed with emailing these CAG members.
- The Steering Committee discussed creating an application form for new CAG members to streamline the process and collect better information. The form could also be sent to current CAG members. The form could include questions about member affiliation, where members live and work, and relevant background and skills information. Willis and Kelly will work on this after updating the CAG

membership. The application will be a Google form so it will be easily stored in Google Sheets.

- Tony Argento, a major property owner along Newtown Creek, has expressed interest in joining the CAG. The Steering Committee voted to approve him as a member.
- Sean Dixon is stepping down from the Steering Committee and CAG. The Steering Committee approved the addition of Chrissy Remein (Riverkeeper) as a member of the Steering Committee and CAG in Sean's place. This decision will be revisited when Riverkeeper has a replacement for Sean's role as senior attorney.
- Laura Hofmann stepped down from the Steering Committee. She will remain a CAG member.

4. Upcoming General CAG Meeting (3/20/18)

- The Steering Committee discussed the agenda for the upcoming general CAG meeting. It included: 1) the potential introduction of the new facilitator; 2) a summary of the Technical Committee meeting; and 3) a discussion of EPA's thoughts on the long-term control plan. Willis will request that Natalie ask EPA to prepare to discuss the long-term control plan at the general CAG meeting.
- Mitch suggested having various groups from around the creek talk about their plans for 2018, as a way to give the community the floor. This suggestion will be considered further during development of the meeting agenda.
- The committee also discussed inviting EPA Regional Administrator Pete Lopez.
- The meeting does not have a location yet. Mike Schade mentioned that National Sawdust in Williamsburg is interested in opening its space for community events. Mike will reach out to them.

5. Steering Committee Meeting Scheduling

- In the fall of 2017, the Steering Committee determined that committee meeting scheduling would be based on a quarterly poll of members' availability. At this meeting, committee members confirmed that they will continue to use this process. Kelly will send out the next meeting availability poll for the second quarter of 2018 in March.