

Newtown Creek Steering Committee Meeting  
Tuesday, September 11, 2018  
4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. ET

### **Attendees**

Willis Elkins  
Pat Field  
Christine Holowacz  
Ed Kelly  
Kelly MacDonald  
Paul Pullo  
Mike Schade  
Mitch Waxman

#### **1. Pulaski Bridge Construction**

- Paul Pullo shared that the Department of Transportation (DOT) is currently repairing bumpers on Pulaski Bridge. This construction work is expected to occur between the hours of 6 a.m. and 2 p.m., five days a week. DOT staff want to meet with creek users to discuss the potential impacts of this work. Ed Kelly said he could check with Coast Guard barge management. He also noted that if DOT will move construction equipment on demand to allow barges to pass, there should not be any issues. Paul agreed to share DOT contact information with Ed.

#### **2. Update from Facilitator Pat Field**

- Pat Field (Consensus Building Institute [CBI]) shared that he is almost done with the interview portion of the CAG operational assessment. He noted that some people could not be reached for interviews. He shared some general findings from the interviews:
  - CAG members expressed frustration at the pace of the cleanup.
  - CAG members feel that EPA staff are sometimes forthcoming with information. At other times, they feel that EPA staff withhold information or are reluctant to share it.
  - CAG members appreciate that the city and the potentially responsible parties (PRPs) present to the CAG. People are also skeptical of the accuracy of the information provided.
  - CAG members are concerned that there is not more public participation and outreach.
- Pat shared initial thoughts on improving the performance of the CAG process. Suggestions included a clearer agenda planning process and regularly scheduled meetings.
- Pat plans to draft a findings document and suggested red-line revisions to the CAG's bylaws. Pat plans to share both drafts with the Steering Committee and EPA by the end of this week or early next week. He hopes to gather any initial feedback and incorporate it before the CAG meeting on September 26.

### **3. September 26 CAG Meeting**

- The meeting is planned for 6:30 p.m.
- Willis Elkins noted that he had reached out to Rich Mazur to see if the senior center in Greenpoint was available as a meeting location for the upcoming CAG meeting. Willis plans to confirm meeting details with Rich.
- Pat Field suggested the following agenda items and agreed to send out a draft agenda to Willis and the Steering Committee for review prior to sending it to EPA:
  - Brief update from EPA about ongoing work.
  - Discussion of the Baseline Ecological Risk Assessment and recently submitted CAG comments.
  - CAG assessment and process change recommendations from CBI.

### **4. Membership Updates**

- The Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce is not currently represented on the CAG. Kelly MacDonald will reach out to the organization to ask about their interest in membership.
- Tom Grech of the Queens Chamber of Commerce expressed interest in joining the general CAG. Willis made a motion for him to join the CAG; no one objected. Tom Grech is now a member of the CAG. Kelly will email him.