



# Memorandum

To: William Lee, Gowanus Environmental Remediation Trust

From: Kathryn Whalen, Ph.D., RPA- Principal Investigator, and Ed Button, M.A., RPA- Field Director

Date: October 2, 2024; Revised October 4, 2024

RE: Memo #10- Summary of Clean Earth Visit, September 26, 2024

## **Activities on September 26, 2024**

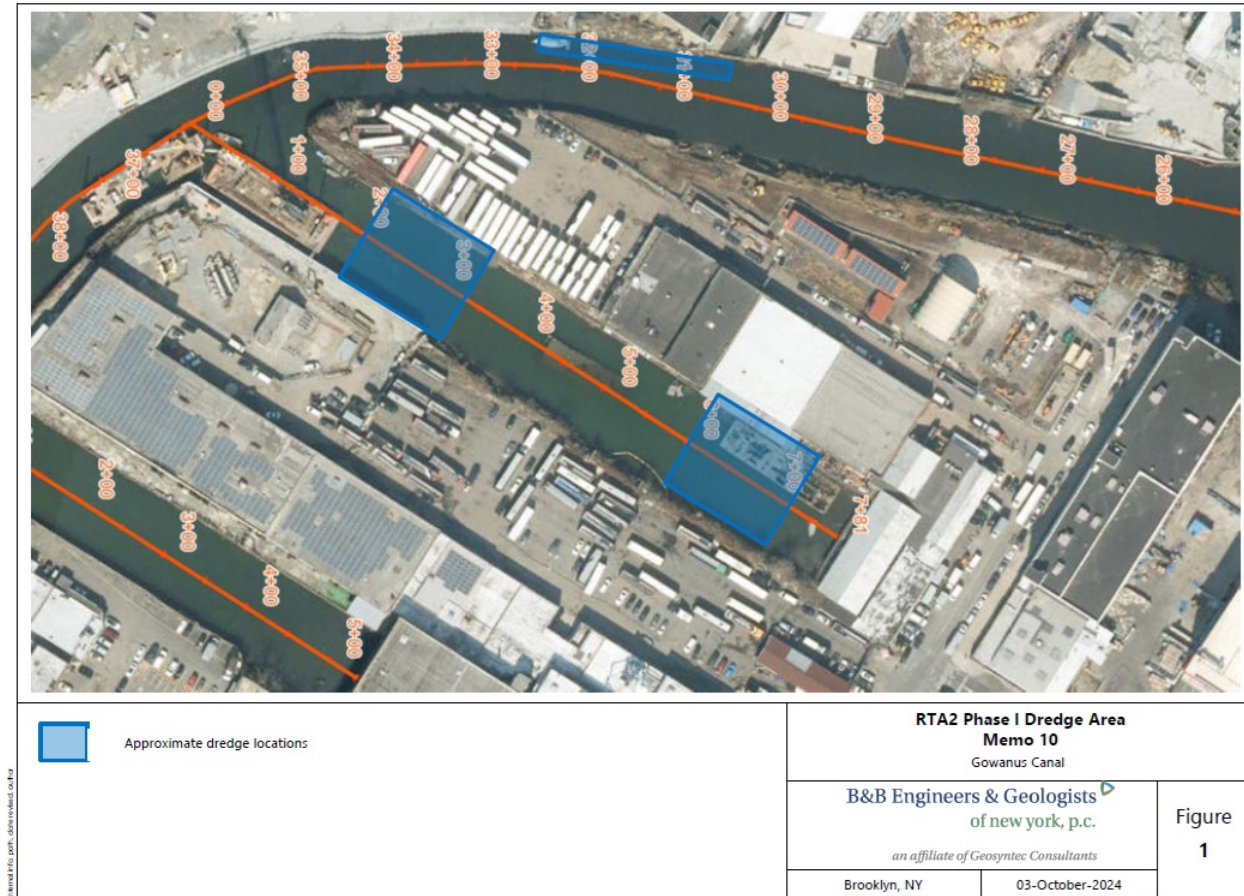
On September 26, 2024, Mr. Ed Button, Field Director for Chronicle Heritage, was on site at the Clean Earth Facility in Jersey City, NJ to inspect materials dredged from the Gowanus Canal for potential objects of local interest or artifacts. The material was dredged by Cashman from the area in front of 98 4<sup>th</sup> Street property and Turning Basin 6 (per Chris Sheedy, Vice President- Construction, Cashman Dredging and Marine Contracting; Figure 1). The material was transported to Clean Earth on one barge:

- WEEK 75; delivered on Saturday, September 21, 2024

The purpose of this memorandum is to document inspection of dredged materials by Chronicle Heritage.

## **METHODOLOGY**

The dredged material had previously been through a shaker (screener) with 4-inch grating and set aside in a pile on a paved/gravel surface for inspection by an archaeologist on September 26, 2024 (Photograph 1). The inspection process utilized a Komatsu PC 270 LC excavator to draw material from the pile and spread it out over the surface for closer inspection (Photograph 2).



**Figure 1. Map showing the general source location of dredged materials inspected at CleanEarth on September, 26, 2024, during Memo 10 (Geosyntec, 2024).**





**Photograph 1. Material from Gowanus Canal, dredged in front of 98 4th Street property and Turning Basin 6 (Chronicle Heritage, September 26, 2024).**



**Photograph 2. An excavator was utilized to spread material out for inspection. Note high frequency of canal timbers, concrete blocks, rocks and tires (Chronicle Heritage, September 26, 2024).**

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## RESULTS

The inspected material was largely splintered canal timbers, medium and large chunks of concrete up to 8-feet in length, six or more 3-feet by 3-feet concrete blocks (Photograph 3), rocks between 1-foot and 3-feet in size, automobile tires, tarps, silt socks and booms, hydraulic hoses, and fiberglass fragments from a small boat were observed. The inspected materials were damp, with dirt and clay adhering to it.

An incomplete outboard boat motor was removed from the debris pile and subsequently hosed off for further examination (Photograph 4). The motor had initially resembled a mid-twentieth century outboard motor with an exposed rotary pull-start assembly. Upon cleaning and further examination, it was evident that the motor was a more recent design missing an engine cover, having plastic coated wires, synthetic electrical boots, and some plastic parts/covers (Photographs 5). There were no distinctive markings other than an operation warning embossed on a rotary piece on the top of the engine (Photograph 6).

Online research identified the motor as very similar to a Johnson 2-stroke 75-hp or 90-hp outboard motor commonly used on fishing boats, cruisers, offshore boats, and aqua sports (Photograph 7). A manual dated 1987 shows a similar motor (Photograph 8), suggesting the one identified at Clean Earth on September 26 was likely manufactured during the 1970s - 1990s. The outboard motor was placed on a pallet and set aside at Clean Earth for temporary on-site storage.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

Chronicle Heritage examined an outboard boat motor that was found in dredged materials within Gowanus Canal in the area in front of 98 4<sup>th</sup> Street property and Turning Basin 6. The motor is badly damaged and incomplete. The motor was set aside for temporary storage at Clean Earth. And subsequent research indicates the outboard motor is possibly a Johnson 2-stroke 75-hp or 90-hp boat motor, likely dating from the 1970s and 1990s. Although the motor could represent past recreational use of the Gowanus Canal, it post-dates the established 1965 end-date for the period of significance. Therefore, Chronicle Heritage does not recommend retaining the motor.





**Photograph 3. Detail of inspected materials including concrete blocks, large concrete fragments, timbers, and tires (Chronicle Heritage, September 26, 2024).**



**Photograph 4. Outboard motor removed from dredged materials and set aside at CleanEarth for temporary on-site storage (Chronicle Heritage, September 26, 2024).**





**Photograph 5. Modern wiring components observed on outboard motor (Chronicle Heritage, September 26, 2024).**



**Photograph 6. Only visible markings were an operation warning on a rotary part on top of the engine (Chronicle Heritage, September 26, 2024).**





Photograph 7. Johnson 75-hp outboard motor at left ([www.smalloutboards.com](http://www.smalloutboards.com)); and Johnson 90-hp outboard motor – at right ([www.smalloutboards.com](http://www.smalloutboards.com)).



Photograph 8. Johnson 60 through 75 models Service Manual from 1987 (ebay.com; accessed 10/2/2024).