



Friends of Accotink Creek / Friends of Lake Accotink Park Town Meeting  
February 17, 2014

Next Meeting: February 17, 2014 Audrey Moore Rec Center, Clubroom 3  
(Third Monday of each month)

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**Present:**

Kris Unger  
Philip Latasa  
Suzy Foster  
Flint Webb  
Sandy Collins  
Ted Welch

**Upcoming events:**

- Opportunity for comment on [widening of Braddock Road](#), Lake Braddock Secondary School Lecture Hall, Feb 19, 7:30 pm
- Cooperator of the Year Reception *at Lost Dog Café*, February 20, 2014
- Federation of Citizens Associations [Stormwater Presentation](#), February 20, 2014.
- Dyke March Restoration meeting, February 26, 2014
- Friends of Lake Accotink Park meeting, February 27, 2014
- Stream Monitoring at Lake Accotink Park, March 8, 2014
- Next FACC meeting, March 17, 2014
- FCRP Film Festival, April 20 – 24, 2014
- NOVA Green Festival, April 22, 2014
- Vienna Green Expo, April 24, 2014

**Action Items:**

- *Suzy will follow up with Laura about reception and also inquire about replanting rescue plants in Wakefield Run or elsewhere in the watershed.*
- *Suzy to follow up with Amy Gould advertise the FCRP Environmental Film Festival at Lost Dog.*
- *Philip to post schedule for Spring Cleanups online , with Alice Ferguson & Volunteer Fairfax.*
- *Suzy will register our schedule with Clean Streams*
- *Sandy will prepare some wording to the FCPA such that any improvements should adhere to the goals of the recently completed Park Authority Natural Resource Plan.*
- *Sandy to follow up with letter to Lee District Supervisor regarding Lake Accotink and Spring Cleanups.*
- *Kris will write a description for the Lecture series for Flint to put in the Federation newsletter.*
- *Kris will follow up with letter to FCPA regarding improvements to Lake Accotink.*
- *Kris will be contacting Annandale H.S. regarding participation in our stream cleanups.*
- *Kris is also working with NVSWCD on a Wakefield Run walk in March.*
- *Kris will send for FACC in support of improvements to Dykes Marsh.*

**FACC Subjects Discussed –**

- Cooperator of the Year:

1. *January 28<sup>th</sup> Presentation:*

Suzy recapped the [award presentation](#) , attended by herself, Ted, Liz, Philip, & Kris.

2. *Reception:*

The Cooperator of the Year reception is at [Lost Dog Cafe February 20](#). Kris authorized FACC funds for pizza reimbursement. There was discussion of the ethics issues of offering free meals to public servants. We will have hand-outs of the lecture series topics ready for distribution. Hopefully we can advertise the FCRP Environmental Film Festival as well – Suzy to follow up with Amy Gould.

• *Wakefield Run:*

Philip reported all stream structures are complete and work is in a cleanup phase. NVSWCD is noncommittal about a time and location for replanting of the rescued plants. Alternate planting locations may be Invasive Management Areas in the Accotink watershed or Daniels Run E.S. **Suzy will inquire with Laura Grape again about replanting.**

• *Potomac Watershed Cleanup:*

Philip noted our proposed schedule is not in conflict with the NOVA Green Festival. There was discussion of rescheduling the Mantua area cleanups and Suzy will verify. Philip asked for volunteers to register our schedule with Clean Streams, which helped organize the 2013 Wakefield Run cleanup. **Suzy will do that. Philip will post online and with Alice Ferguson Foundation and Volunteer Fairfax.** As always, ideas for simple ways to enhance the education value for volunteers are welcome.

• *Grant Proposal:*

1. *Lecture series:*

Suzy reported Robert has contacted the Mantua Civic Association for a presentation to a board meeting. It is time to begin distributing the list of lecture topics. **Kris will write something for Flint to put in the Federation newsletter.**

2. *Compost:*

Ted provided a summary of his composting presentation, which will cover Reasons, Materials, Principles, Discussion, and Samples. Ted will serve as a “Compost Confidential” hotline for novice composters. Liz has agreed to assist with the visuals for the presentation. Ted suggested that he can make this presentation to the Rotary clubs starting with his own.

3. *Community Initiative:*

Kris is working this week with Lands and Waters for a “Follow the Water” presentation at Daniels Run E.S. He will be contacting Annandale H.S. regarding participation in our stream cleanups. Kris is also working with NVSWCD on a Wakefield Run walk in March.

• *Americana Trail Paving:*

Philip noted the Americana Park Cross County Trail paving project got a break in the weather and was able to complete paving the last week in January. The next week it was flooded again. Danielle Wynne of Stormwater Planning has advised the adjacent wet meadow project is still on track for spring. We will see if an Eagle Scout candidate is interested in participating.

• *Lake Accotink Park Projects:*

Philip asked if we had sent the letter we had previously approved expressing our concerns. We had not, so **Kris will follow up.**

• *Lake Accotink Park Master Plan:*

Philip presented a draft of positions FACC may wish to put forth, and welcomed comments and improvements (1). **Sandy** noted the master plan should adhere to the recently completed Park Authority Natural Resource Plan and **will prepare some wording.**

• *FCRP Film Festival:*

Suzy noted the film festival is moving forward. The anticipated dates are April 20 – 24. Amy is seeking sponsors for \$500 to \$2500 apiece. NOVA is no longer considering a film festival at the same time.

• *Represent FACC:*

- Lee District Open House Jan 25 – Sandy attended and spoke with Supervisor McKay about FACC. ***She will provide him with our cleanup schedule for his newsletter***
- IMA Appreciation March 8<sup>th</sup> – There was discussion of who might wish to attend for FACC.
- NOVA Green Festival April 22<sup>nd</sup> – The date is set. FACC may have presentations similar to NOVA Watershed Summit held last fall.
- Vienna Green Expo April 24<sup>th</sup> – We need to actually register for this event. Philip will follow up. Ted agreed tentatively to man the booth if he can do this while also managing the Master Naturalists' table.
  - ***Stormwater Meeting:***

Flint advised Randy Bartlett of Stormwater Planning will make a presentation to the Federation of Citizens Associations on the application and future of the 2 cent stormwater tax. February 20, 7:30pm, Braddock Hall

- ***Scout Projects:***

Ted noted one scout project, to renovate a kiosk in Wakefield Park, will take place this week. Another scout is meeting with the Park Authority to mark out a trail realignment project at the Lake Accotink Park office.

- ***Dyke Marsh Restoration:***

Philip offered a draft of comments (2) in response to an appeal from our sister watershed group, Friends of Dyke Marsh. ***Kris will send for FACC. Individuals may also comment online.***

- ***Prince Georges County Public-Private Partnership:***

Flint had earlier shared with some of the group a [press release](#) concerning a new EPA/Prince Georges County public-private initiative to reduce impervious surfaces. There was discussion of the merits of this approach and how it might apply here. ***We will discuss the idea with NVSWCD February 20.***

- ***GMU Nonprofit Management Service Learning:***

***Kris is in touch with a GMU student***, currently employed at Stormwater Planning, who is seeking thirty hours of service with a non-profit. Promotion of our stream cleanups may be an appropriate activity.

- ***Annandale Redevelopment :***

Philip shared an email exchange regarding a cluster of redevelopment projects in Annandale. These projects are near the Annandale Gateway concept FCRP is promoting. Broad discussion of how we might promote watershed-friendly choices in these and other redevelopment projects led to no conclusions.

*Philip Latasa*

**Friends of Accotink Creek**

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(1) Lake Accotink Park Master Plan 2014 – Positions of Friends of Accotink Creek

- **Upgrade of facilities**

While we are largely neutral on facilities, we ask that planning be guided by the principles of no net increase in impervious surfaces and no increase in runoff. Further, any renovations or construction that may be undertaken would offer opportunities to incorporate advanced environmental and watershed-friendly features.

- **Study moving or modifying parking at dam**

The parking lot at the dam has been damaged more than once in recent years by tropical storm flooding. Relocating all or part of the parking lot out of the floodplain could avoid future damage and allow revegetation of the riparian corridor. One possibility for relocation is exchanging the locations of this parking lot and the upper field near the Heming Ave entrance.

- Invasives removal/prevention  
Invasive alien plant species are pervasive within Lake Accotink Park (as in many other parks), diminishing both environmental and recreational value of natural areas. While the Park Authority's Invasive Management Area volunteer program addresses a few small areas, park-wide invasive prevention and control should be integrated into all maintenance and planning.
- Defend natural resources over recreation  
The demand for active recreational and sports use of parks is infinite, but our remaining natural areas are finite. Destruction of irreplaceable habitat to satisfy demands for active recreation is an unwise course. Likewise, encouraging types of recreation in natural areas that degrade those areas is also destined to be regretted.
- Study dam removal  
The lake is a treasured recreational resource and the wetlands at its upstream end have habitat value. The lake also provides the benefit of keeping sediment from downstream waters. However, the dam is expensive to maintain and blocks natural migration of aquatic wildlife. Sediment dredging is also a continuing expense. The master plan should explore alternatives.
- Stream restoration or protection projects  
Fairfax County is undertaking, at great expense to taxpayers, a series of remediation plans to restore the health of all streams in the county. As steward of so many of our streams and natural areas, the Park Authority has a key role to play in the success of this endeavor. Park Authority actions cannot be conceived in isolation from this larger goal or work at cross purposes. The master plan should incorporate elements of the county's Accotink Creek Watershed Plan affecting the park and integrate the goal of watershed protection.
- The park as a watershed-friendly demonstration area  
County facilities in general, and parks in particular, are in the public eye and should serve as showcases for watershed-friendly practices, providing inspiring examples for property owners to follow, thus serving as a multiplier for county watershed restoration expenditures.
- Pavement  
Pavement is the primary cause of impairment of stream health in our county, by causing streambed erosion through excessive runoff. The Park Authority could set the example of reversing this trend by avoidance of creation of impervious surfaces, by replanting, by depaving, by replacing conventional pavement with pervious pavement, and by mitigation of new construction.
- The balance needed between preservation vs. increased demands for park revenue  
Ever growing requirements for parks to produce revenue are inconsistent with the concept of parks as a public benefit. Pursuing revenue producing activities will render our public parks indistinguishable from shopping centers or private amusement parks.
- Cost avoidance value of preserving natural areas  
Rather than asking our parks to produce revenue, let us consider the cost avoidance value to our community of maintaining and enhancing natural areas for flood control and water quality.

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(2) FACC Dyke Marsh Comments

The Friends of Accotink Creek support the fullest possible extent of wetlands restoration (Alternative C) in our neighboring waters, Dyke Marsh:

- Human activity has removed 270 acres from the marsh, leaving 60 acres of marshland today, still eroding at up to 2 acres per year. It is our obligation to restore this remnant of formerly extensive Potomac tidal marshes.
- A restored promontory can protect the tidal marsh and restore its benefit to the Potomac and Chesapeake Bay by encouraging natural accretion and deposition of sediment.
- A restored promontory will also anchor and enhance the next phases of restoration.
- Using National Airport runway extension mitigation funding is appropriate.
- Restoring Dyke Marsh can help reverse our national decline in wetlands.

Comment at: <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/commentForm.cfm?documentID=57043>