



Friends of Accotink Creek Town Meeting

July 21, 2014

Next Meeting: August 18, 2014

Audrey Moore Rec Center, Clubroom 3
(Third Monday of each month)

Present:

Kris Unger
Philip Latasa
Suzy Foster
Flint Webb

Upcoming events:

- Next FACC meeting, August 18, 2014
- Next FLAP meeting, September 18, 2014
- Long Branch stream walks, August 30, 2014
- Springfield Bridge Walk, August 26, 2014
- Lake Accotink Park Stream Monitoring, Sept. 13, 2014
- Watershed Presentation, Federation of Citizens Associations, Sept. 18, 2014
- Friends of Long Branch Kickoff meeting, September 22, 2014
- Watershed Projects Presentation, Providence District Council, Oct. 21, 2014

Action Items:

- *Everyone is to bring grant ideas to the next meeting*
- *Philip – Confirm status of Adopt-a-Stream sign authorizations*
- *Kris - Work with Heather on fall cleanup recruitment*
- *Kris - Work with FCPA on Lake Accotink natural resource assessment*
- *Kris – Arrange Anacostia trash trap visit*
- *Suzy - Contact Mosaic District on historic marker*
- *Kris – Arrange \$500 donation to Lake Accotink Park*
- *Kris & Liz – Distribute letter on Eakin award*
- *Suzy – File corporation fee and respond to IRS*

FACC Subjects Discussed –

- *International Coastal Cleanup:*

Philip shared the [fall cleanup schedule](#), which is now posted online. Suzy asked about a separate Wakefield Run cleanup and Philip noted that could be included in the Little River Turnpike site. Suzy suggested the possibility of including M.O.R.E.

Federation trash site

Philip advised the Old Lee Hwy cleanup site is scheduled for Oct. 11 3 – 5 pm. The Federation of Civic Associations will cooperate with FACC at that site.

Temple Adat Reyim

Our collaborator of many years has requested a new location, due to perceived lack of trash at their usual Braddock Road site. We have scheduled a cleanup at their request at the Lake Accotink Park dam parking lot Sept. 21. This site will not be advertised to the public.

Outreach Initiative

Kris explained he and Heather are drafting a letter seeking various forms of support for cleanups, to be sent to a number of organizations. Suzy suggested the Mosaic District, Hudson Trail Outfitters, Performance Bike, and EQR as possible addressees.

Celebratory Gathering

Kris is discussing with FLAP the possibility of a post-cleanup gathering, perhaps at Lake Accotink Park.

- *Whole Foods Funds/Mastenbrook Grant:*

There was discussion of the suggestion made at the [joint FACC/FLAP meeting](#) to use 5% Day funds to purchase recycling containers for Lake Accotink Park, with some questioning of the practicality.

Philip offered the idea of applying funds to the restoration of Flag Run, which together with the donation offered by Donald Pless, might spur the county to address the project.

Kris proposed donating \$500 to the park to be applied to assisting low-income youth and families to participate in nature and educational activities. This had been suggested by Park Supervisor Julie Tahan at the joint FACC/FLAP meeting but has the drawback of not qualifying for matching Mastenbrook grants, which tend to support permanent tangible items. Nonetheless, the proposal was compelling and passed without objection. Kris will follow up with the park and FLAP.

- *Represent FACC:*

Springfield Bridge Walk Aug. 26, 7 pm

Philip asked if there was interest in pursuing the Lake Accotink Park Supervisor's suggestion of staffing a table at the annual Springfield Bridge Walk. Flint pointed out the opportunity to promote the fall cleanups. Kris will discuss with Liz & Ted.

Braddock Nights summer Fridays, 7:30

Ditto above. ***Volunteers welcome for either event!***

Federation of Citizens Associations Sept. 18

Kris will be making a presentation on the topic of what civic associations can do to support watersheds. He will coordinate with Elaine Tholen, of Fairfax County Public School, who will also speak on school environmental partnerships. This will be part of the FACC Community Presentation lecture series.

Providence District Council Oct. 21

Flint mentioned Danielle Wynne of Stormwater Planning Division will speak on the topic of watershed restoration projects in Providence District.

- *Lower Accotink Canoe Trek:*

Kris related, to the envy of those who had not been there, his [July 9th canoe trek](#) down Accotink Creek from Springfield to Accotink Bay on the Potomac at Fort Belvoir with Philip and Dave Lincoln. There was discussion of repeating the trip, perhaps as a fundraiser.

- *Nazi Vandalism:*

Philip reported the vandalism damage to the Americana Park kiosk [has been repaired](#) with funds and volunteers from The North Face. North Face was given a certificate and a copy was posted in the kiosk. Some adjustments required by measurement discrepancies will be made when Ted returns.

- *Friends of Long Branch:*

Kris discussed the stream walks he will be leading Aug. 30 as part of Tony Vellucci's Friends of Long Branch initiative. This will be part of the community initiative portion of our grant, for which Kris will receive a yet-to-be-determined stipend.

Philip indicated the details of the Oct. 18 Long Branch stream cleanup, also proposed by Tony, are still fuzzy, as is how FACC can support the effort.

- Grant Proposal:

There was a general discussion of the Community Presentation lectures series, covering the need to kick start it by actively contacting civic associations and the value of preparing a ready-to-go slideshow/video presentation.

- Merrifield Park Historic Marker:

Kris described how his research had located a study of the history of [Merrifield as a freedman's settlement](#), and although not closely related to the FACC mission, how the idea of placing a historic marker in Merrifield Park took form. Kris already has a positive response from the Park Authority, and is waiting to hear from the author of the study. There was discussion of whom to contact regarding donation for the funding (about \$1500). Suzy will contact Mosaic District and Lost Dog Cafe.

- 501c3:

Suzy presented a letter from the IRS requesting additional information in support of our 501c3 application and possibly requiring amendments to our articles of incorporation. As there is a deadline and Kris will be out of town for a few weeks, Suzy will follow up.

It also came to light that the annual Commonwealth corporation report and fee have not been taken care of and are now past due. Kris will address this. [NOTE: This is now completed.]

- Eakin Philanthropy Award

Kris advised how it had come to the attention of the FACC board that the Fairfax County Park Foundation was planning to give this annual award to our old adversaries in the HOT Lanes battle, Transurban-Fluor. Kris explained that the Foundation had rejected FACC's written request for reconsideration of the award as inappropriate for an organization that had done so much damage to parks and waters.

There was discussion of rewording our letter for wider distribution, to the Board of Supervisors, Park Authority Director, and to media. Flint noted HOT lanes have been proposed for I-66, also running through our watershed. Rough language was worked out at the table and Kris will finalize. Kris will work with Liz on distribution.

Philip Latasa

Friends of Accotink Creek
