



Friends of Accotink Creek Town Meeting

August 18, 2014

Next Meeting: September 15, 2014

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

Present:

Kris Unger
Philip Latasa
Ted Welch
Heather Breiner
Flint Webb
Guest – Andrew Leal

Upcoming events:

- Next FACC meeting, September 15, 2014
- Next FLAP meeting, September 18, 2014
- Long Branch stream walks, August 30, 2014
- Accotink TMDL meeting, August 26, 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
- Fall for Fairfax, October 4 & 5, 2014
- Watershed Projects Presentation, Providence District Council, Oct. 21, 2014
- FACC Board elections, December 15, 2014

Action Items:

- *Everyone – ideas for use of Whole Foods funds*
- *Philip & Ted – Put up Adopt-a-Stream signs*
- *Kris - Work with Heather on fall cleanup recruitment*
- *Kris – Arrange Anacostia trash trap visit*
- *Kris, Philip, & Suzy – Work on Merrifield historic marker*
- *Suzy – File bylaws with IRS*
- *Philip - get monitoring equipment pricing*
- *Philip – Get mussel survey information*
- *Ted – Get fishing net information*

FACC Subjects Discussed –

• Scout Projects

Eagle Scout candidate Andrew Leal joined us and discussed his interest in the Ellick Preserve tire dump. Andrew plans to survey the area to determine how many tires remain after previous removal efforts.

Philip reported Eagle Scout candidate Jeremy Mogollon completed his project to clear invasive vines which had taken over a native tree planting site at the Lake Accotink Marina.

- International Coastal Cleanup:

Philip and Ted will coordinate putting up the Adopt-a-stream signs, except those on VDOT property, for which we still have to plan to gain authorization.

There was discussion of Liz's idea of video recording of volunteers' comment of what they learned from the cleanups. Philip mentioned earlier efforts to persuade volunteers to perform the [cleanup anthem](#). Others suggested alternate formats, such as adapting a hymn or nursery rhyme.

Outreach Initiative

Kris and Heather are distributing a letter seeking various forms of support for cleanups to a number of organizations. The email address action@accotink.org is being used for these appeals.

Celebratory Gathering

Kris will discuss a post-cleanup gathering with Tony Vellucci, perhaps at Lake Accotink Park. Ted suggested we might develop "Accotink Punch" to serve at this gathering.

- Whole Foods Funds/Mastenbrook Grant:

There was discussion of the requirement to report to Whole Foods within six months on our use of the donated funds. FACC previously donated \$500 of the funds to enable low-income attendance at Lake Accotink nature outings. Philip reported Julie Tahan, Park Manager, was running into some red tape in using those funds. Philip also mentioned that the FLAP idea of purchasing recycling containers went nowhere, both because of practical issues and because it had been overlooked that there are already recycling containers at the boat house.

Other suggestions mentioned for use of the funds:

Professional mussel survey – Philip will get information

Water quality test instruments – Philip will get information

A fishing net for trash gathering – Ted will get information

- Represent FACC:

Springfield Bridge Walk Aug. 26, 7 pm

Heather may be available.

Federation of Citizens Associations Sept. 18

Kris confirmed Elaine Tholen, of Fairfax County Public School, will also speak. Kris will include in his talk a mention of the unsuccessful Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District Danbury Forest stream restoration grant proposal. This proposal included community and school participation and could be "dusted off" and used by other communities. Kris will write a blurb for the Federation newsletter.

Fall for Fairfax October 4 & 5

Philip conveyed Suzy's suggestion FACC share a booth with Fairfax County Restoration Project. FCRP will be leading tours of the nearby green roof and stream restoration project. **Volunteers welcome!**

Anacostia trash trap visit

Ted will nudge Kris to get this going.

Providence District Council Oct. 21

Danielle Wynne of Stormwater Planning Division will speak on watershed projects. Philip mentioned the earlier unsuccessful attempt to video record a similar talk in Mantua for distribution and wondered if this might be another opportunity, perhaps with Channel 16 support. There was general discussion of the idea, but no conclusions.

- Wakefield Run:

Philip reminded of our commitment to monitoring after the Wakefield Run restoration and the need to begin soon. He reported recent observations of large numbers of lung snails in Wakefield Run, an indication of pitifully low water quality.

- Fairfax High School:

Kris mentioned Fairfax High School's IB program plans to begin stream monitoring where Accotink Creek flows beside the campus. This is very near two of our cleanup sites. Danielle Wynne will be leading her SCI (Stream Crime Investigation) program at the school.

- Friends of Long Branch:

Meeting

All are welcome at the Sept. 22 Long Branch meeting, where we may encourage cooperation, rather than splintering into separate Accotink groups.

Stream Walks

There was discussion of the Aug. 30 stream walks along Long Branch. Kris will lead the walks and Philip will provide support with our awning and handouts. The walks will focus on invasive plants, bugs, erosion, and habitat.

Cleanup

Tony Vellucci is still working on plans for cleanups along Long Branch Oct. 18, but details are few.

- Merrifield Park Historic Marker:

Kris has talked to historian Marion Dobbins. She is already working on a historic markers proposal, including Merrifield and Liberty Cemetery in Pine Ridge Park. Kris will be meeting her soon to learn how FACC may support her.

- 501c3:

The FACC board members present unanimously accepted Suzy's proposed amendments to our bylaws, to conform more closely to IRS requirements. The board also amended Article V, Section 1.C., correcting "that" to "than".

Philip noted the elections for Primary Conservator, Secondary Conservator, and Chronicler are coming up in December. There was discussion of recruiting replacement officers.

- Eakin Philanthropy Award

Kris advised we are still on good terms with the Fairfax County Park Foundation, despite our public objection to their award to the 495 Express Lanes contractor, Transurban/Fluor.

- TMDL:

Philip noted the long-delayed Accotink Creek TMDL process will begin again August 26th with a meeting at Richard Byrd Library. Philip will attend and other FACC attendees are welcome. This process replaces the TMDL struck down after the County and VDOT [lawsuit against the EPA](#). Kris remarked that the County may have acted in good faith, in response to which Philip opined that both good faith and good intentions can pave the road to a certain place.

- Phishing Attack:

Philip reported that accotink.org apparently was used as a vehicle for phishing attacks, as reported to us by Google security. In response, we upgraded our password and deleted suspect files.

- FBI Headquarters:

Philip noted the GSA Springfield warehouse is on the final list for possible new FBI headquarters, which could bring big changes to our watershed. There is an environmental assessment process required. Sandy will keep an eye on this.

- Vienna Stream Restoration:

Ted reported no news on the Vienna stream restoration, but will continue to check.

Philip Latasa

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