



Friends of Accotink Creek Town Meeting

December 15, 2014

Next Meeting: January 19, 2015

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

Present:

Kris Unger
Philip Latasa
Sue Schuman
Suzy Foster
Ted Welch

Upcoming events:

- Coalition of Watershed Friends, January 13, 2015
- Next FACC meeting, January 19, 2015
- Next FLAP meeting, January 22, 2015
- Joint FACC/FLAP/FLBSV meeting, January TBD, 2015
- Route 1 Forum Coalition for Smarter Growth, January TBD, 2015
- Snakehead Forum, Huntley Meadows Park, February 22, 2015
- Lake Accotink Park Stream Monitoring, March 14, 2015
- Green Inspirations Film Festival, March 22 - March 26, 2015

Action Items:

- *Sandy – Arrange Anacostia trash trap visit*
- *Kris, Philip, & Suzy – Work on Merrifield historic marker*
- *Philip & Sandy – Get mussel survey information*
- *Ted – Arrange Walnut Hill Farm visit*
- *Philip – Prepare canker worm letter*
- *Kris – Develop workshop ideas*
- *Kris & Philip prepare Merrifield Park marker text.*
- *Philip – Develop Long Branch south trail response*

FACC Subjects Discussed –

• Whole Foods Funds/Mastenbrook Grant:

Philip advised Sandy had contacted Environmental Consulting Services, Inc. which is interested and has contacted the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary, a volunteer group with an impressive volunteer mussel monitoring program. They are planning a conference call to explore the idea.

The biologist at the Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin also recommended the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary and he may yet join the effort in some capacity.

• Represent FACC:

Giles Run Tire Dump Dec 16

Joe Chudzik has gotten results for our neighboring watershed – the Fire Marshall has ordered AAAACo Used Auto Parts to remove the tire dump and other debris along Giles Run in Lorton. Philip will attend

a meeting with Joe and a Potomac Riverkeeper board member to discuss Joe's issues with an abandoned barge in Belmont Bay and other possibilities for cooperation.

Anacostia trash trap visit Dec. 19

Philip advised the Potomac Conservancy and Anacostia Watershed Society will have a [public workday](#) at their trash trap. Another trash trap operated by Anacostia Riverkeeper is nearby.

EQAC Hearing Jan 15

Kris plans to attend and speak. [NOTE: [Video testimony is invited](#) .]

Joint FACC/FLAP meeting Jan.

Kris has proposed a Jan. 26 social gathering at the Lost Dog Cafe. He is awaiting response from FLAP.

Route 1 Forum Coalition for Smarter Growth Jan.

Philip noted this will be rescheduled in January and offers possibilities for networking.

- *Flag Run Inspection & Visit*

Philip related the recent success of Donald Pless in getting official attention for Flag Run. A) Solid Waste has instructed nearby businesses to improve dumpster management. B) Stormwater Planning is monitoring possible detergent discharge. C) Representatives from the Park Authority and perhaps some other county agencies and perhaps the Bay Journal will walk Flag Run with Donald Dec. 17.

- *Potomac Riverkeepers Cooperation:*

Kris remarked that Jeff Kelbe, our ally in the HOT Lanes affair, has moved from Shenandoah Riverkeeper to overall Potomac Riverkeeper. Jeff has asked Nick Kuttner, PRK board member, to attend the Giles Run meeting Dec. 16 for discussions of possible cooperation with local Fairfax groups. Ted speculated on a role for the Riverkeepers in preparedness for oil tanker spills. Sue & Philip mentioned the two petroleum tank farms in our watershed, on Pickett Road and in Newington.

- *Coalition of Watershed Friends in Fairfax:*

Planning Meeting Jan. 13

Kris spoke about plans by Glenda Booth of Friends of Dyke Marsh for a small meeting to revive the idea of a local coalition of watershed groups.

Snakehead Meeting Feb. 22

Kris also advised Glenda had invited FACC to cosponsor and attend a [meeting on the topic of snakeheads](#).

- *495 Mowpocalypse:*

Kris described the [recent debacle](#) of VDOT contractors mowing down recent plantings and native volunteer plants. We have received no response to our letter to lawmakers on the topic. FCRP is pursuing with VDOT. Philip noted this may be an opportunity to revisit lingering issues from the 495 Express Lanes construction, especially the spring north of Americana Park which was left trashed.

- *Grant Proposal:*

Workshop

Kris is still working on the concept of workshop presentations at Walnut Hill Farm.

- *Virginia Stream Restoration Funding:*

Suzy explained recent Virginia Stormwater Local Assistance Fund grants obtained by Fairfax County for stream restoration projects in Wakefield Park, in the Davenport neighborhood, and on an intermittent tributary in Lake Accotink Park in connection with planned CCT paving. These projects may offer opportunities for rescue of native plants which might be relocated to the recent Brookfield Pond project. Ted suggested Fairfax Master Naturalists and Virginia Native Plant Society might join in.

Suzy also noted the Park Authority has plans for a 3-year program of invasives control along the CCT in Lake Accotink Park south of Braddock Road.

- Merrifield Park Historic Marker:

There was discussion of the need to move ahead with the idea of the marker. Sue suggested possibly working with the Providence District supervisor.

- 501c3:

FACC Elections

FACC board elections results, by acclamation:

- Primary Conservator - Kris Unger
- Secondary Conservator - Ted Welch
- Chronicler - Philip Latasa
- At Large - Sue Schuman (for one year, to fill vacancy left by Ted)

- Long Branch (south) Trail

Philip noted he has learned of a planned development along the Long Branch south tributary which includes a proffer of constructing a 10 foot wide asphalt trail in the floodplain. The plans indicate intentions to eventually push this trail along the length of Long Branch south to the Springfield Metro. Philip will confer with Flint & Amy on how to act.

- Stream Monitoring

Ted related the Dec. 13 [stream monitoring](#) at Lake Accotink Park had an unusually high turnout of 20 volunteers, including one young man in a power wheelchair who managed to get through the woods to the stream bank with a bit of help.

- Mantua Dumping

Sue and Ted discussed recent incidents of illegal roadside dumping at Barkley & Karen in Mantua and success in getting Solid Waste to remove it.

- Americana Park

Suzy related that plans for a wet meadow planting next spring in Americana Park are proceeding. Earth Sangha will be involved in supplying plants. The hope of DPWES is that we can drum up volunteers to help with planting.

- Trail Hikes

Kris expressed interest in scheduling regular trail hikes, perhaps the afternoons of the second Sunday monthly.

Philip Latasa

Friends of Accotink Creek
