



Bulletin of the Proceedings of the Friends of Accotink Creek

Our meeting notes serve as bulletins of our activities, interests, and discussions, supplemented by your submissions.

Friends of Accotink Creek Town Meeting July 21, 2015

Next Meeting: August 18, 2015 (Third Tuesday of each month)
Audrey Moore Rec Center, Senior Center Lobby

[DONATE/SUPPORT](#)

Present:

Philip Latasa
Suzy Foster
Heather Breiner
Sue Schuman
Beverley Rivera
Dave Lincoln

Upcoming events:

- Pickett Road condominium meeting, July 29, 2015
- Wakefield Park Plant Rescues, through August, 2015
- Professional freshwater mussel survey, autumn, 2015
- Lake Accotink Park Stream Monitoring, September 12, 2015
- International Coastal Cleanup, September/October, 2015
- Next FLAP meeting, October 15, 2015
- Elly Doyle Award Presentation, November 20, 2015

Action Items:

- *Kris – Develop Lanier bioretention plan*
- *Kris – Coordinate with Choose Clean Water on TMDL*
- *Philip – Coordinate TMDL comments with Chesapeake Bay Foundation*
- *Flint – gather information on candidate questionnaire*
- *Sandy & Philip – Develop mussel survey plan*
- *Philip – Prepare Old Lee Hwy comments*
- *Dave – Seek Ranavirus information*
- *Sue & Philip – Draft Pickett Road condo letter*
- *Dave & Philip – Check Meetup status*

FACC Subjects Discussed –

• Ranavirus:

Philip passed along the unfortunate news that [Ranavirus](#) has been confirmed in Fairfax County on Mason Neck. This virus has become a worldwide plague on amphibians, reducing some species to extinction. Dave will check on Commonwealth and local efforts to monitor the situation.

• Whole Foods Funds/Mastenbrook Grant:

Philip noted the signed permit request from Daguna was sent to the Park Authority, but we have not heard back. The mussel survey needs to be completed during the warm months. [Note: Daguna has since confirmed the permit is in hand and we are on schedule for a September/ early October survey.]

- Represent FACC:

- Northern Virginia Magazine

Philip indicated the [Northern Virginia Magazine](#) article describing FACC had been published.

- TMDL July 6

Philip informed that the [Accotink Creek TMDL](#) process resumed with a Technical Advisory Committee meeting of stakeholders June 24th and a public meeting July 6th. Results of the initial study indicate the primary stressors are sediment, as expected, and chlorides from road salt, which was unexpected. Public comments are due by August 6th. Philip will coordinate FACC comments with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. Comments from Department of Public Works and Environmental Services representatives after the meeting indicate no county action until the MS4 discharge permit is up for renewal in 5 years (although the previous renewal was delayed a decade).

- Wakefield Park Stream Restorations:

- Plant Rescue*

Suzy described the July 18th plant rescue having had a half-dozen volunteers, with all plants taken for personal use. Philip reminded that weekly plant rescues are continuing Thursdays. Suzy is still working on permission to return some plants to their original locations.

- Daventry*

Dave summarized progress on the Daventry stream restoration.

- Accotink Gorge:



Philip recounted a trek through the gorge on July 7 with interested parties and a discussion with the Park Authority Natural Resources Division Manager on preserving the exceptional native flora from encroaching Chinese wisteria. The Park Authority offered little encouragement in terms of county funds or effort.

Philip described the scope of the challenge of controlling this large infestation of wisteria. To find the support, funds, and manpower needed will require seeking grants and canvassing businesses on Boston Blvd. and Alban Road, as well as VDOT and Dominion Power. A small group

of volunteers could do one “headland” section identified as most critical. Philip & Kris will prepare a plan for the Park Authority. Since effective wisteria control usually involves painting stumps with herbicide, Philip suggested a possible collaboration with Mow Cow.

There was discussion of coordinating a gorge walk/workday with our fall stream cleanup at this location. Philip will work on the schedule.

- Fairfax Pickett Road Condos:

Sue described the proposed 80-condominium development in Fairfax City on two sloping acres uphill from Thaiss Park. Sue and Suzy are working with the Mantua Civic Association to document negative effects and bring them to the attention of the City and County, including speaking at the June 23rd City council meeting. Suzy asked if FACC could provide a letter of support – Sue will work with Philip on wording. There will be a public community meeting 7:30, July 29th, at the Mantua Swim & Tennis Club.

Sue noted 400 condos are also proposed on the nearby shopping center at Pickett Road and Rt. 50.

- Audubon Naturalist Society Coalition:

Philip related that Audubon's May watershed workshop has led to talk of a coalition of local watershed groups, a thing we have long desired. Efforts have gone as far as creation of a [website template](#).

- Federation of Parks Friends Groups:

Beverley shared her observations from the July 11th meeting of friends of parks groups. A name has not been decided, but the groups are coalescing toward planning two meetings annually sponsored by the Park Authority plus two sponsored by the groups. Although the orientation seems to be toward the larger, better financed groups, Beverley believes FACC participation is worthwhile.

- Elly Doyle Award:

Philip announced FACC has been named a recipient of the 2015 Park Authority [Elly Doyle Park Service Award](#). The "gala" presentation will be November 20th. This may be an opportunity for networking and promotion of Accotink interests, including the gorge project. There was discussion of attending wearing our FACC safety vests.

- Tour of Daniels Run & Lanier:

Philip informed that Kris had led a tour of watershed friendly projects at Daniels Run Elementary School and Lanier Middle School for representatives of Choose Clean Water and Audubon Naturalist Society. Philip urged all to visit these projects, originated by our sister group, Lands & Waters. Kris is working on organizing maintenance workdays.

- Meetup Renewal:

Philip conveyed the need to renew our Meetup membership, at \$89.94 for one year. We currently have 143 Meetup members. There was discussion of the value of Meetup vs. other free platforms and how many such platforms are worth the trouble. There was consensus to renew if needed before Kris is back in town, but to seek a shorter term. Dave & Philip will check.

- Braddock Road:

Philip advised FACC written comments had been submitted, urging a transit solution, no loss of habitat, and improved stormwater controls.

- Old Lee Hwy "Great Street":

Philip related that written comments were sent to Fairfax City praising the watershed friendly elements of the Old Lee Hwy plan and suggesting inclusion of stormwater controls in adjacent school parking lots.

- Change Meeting Night:

Philip reported that our new Tuesday meeting night conflicts with scheduled classes in Clubroom 3. The consensus was to not consider further change and use the Senior Center Lobby

- Accounting:

Sue will have her son David, an experienced non-profit accountant, get together with Philip to set up proper bookkeeping for FACC funds.

There was continued discussion of the difference of opinion with Northern Virginia Trout Unlimited over charges to the FACC funds they hold. Talks with NVATU are on hold until Kris returns in late August. Dave noted there is "*Something fishy*" about this matter.

- Trash Socks:

Suzy described the criteria DPWES is applying in seeking five test locations for stormwater outfall trash “socks”. The outfalls should be 24” to 36” diameter, must not be on VDOT or Park Authority property, must be accessible to crane trucks, and must have trash problems. Suggestions are welcome.

In this context, Suzy also noted Stormwater Maintenance Division is cleaning trash from 1300 stormwater ponds monthly, using the Sheriff’s community service crews.

- Faith Alliance:

Dave discussed his regular attendance at [Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions](#) meetings. Discussion wandered to the Pope’s September visit to Washington. Philip’s thought that we invite the Pope to our cleanups, just for the value of the letter we get back, was not rejected. Sue will draft an invitation.



Philip Latasa

Friends of Accotink Creek
