



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 March 16, 2015

Next Meeting: April 20, 2015 (Third Monday of each month)

SPECIAL MEETING PLACE: [Walnut Hill Farm](#) SPECIAL TIME: 6:30 – 8:00

Present:

Kris Unger

Philip Latasa

Flint Webb

Steve Frehn

Suzy Foster

Ted Welch

Sue Shuman

Tony Vellucci

Sandy Collins

Joe Knecht – organizing a Friends of Holmes Run

Chante Coleman – representing the Choose Clean Water Coalition

Matthew Spurlock – scout interested in Accotink-related projects

Mariko Spurlock - Matthew's mom

Upcoming events:

- Next FACC meeting, April 20, 2015 at [Walnut Hill Farm](#)
- Lake Accotink Park Stream Monitoring/Mussel Locating, March 21, 2015
- I-66 Public Forum, March 25, 2015
- Potomac Watershed Cleanup, March 28 – May 2, 2015
- Next FLAP meeting, April 16, 2015
- Americana Park Planting, April 17 & 18, 2015
- Earth Day/Green Living, April 22, 2015
- Kings Park Library presentation, April 23, 2015

Action Items:

- *Sandy & Ted – Arrange Anacostia trash trap visit*
- *Kris, Philip, & Suzy – Work on Merrifield historic marker*
- *Sue – Arrange Walnut Hill Farm visit*
- *Kris – Develop workshop ideas*
- *Sandy & Philip – Develop mussel survey plan*

FACC Subjects Discussed –

• Coalition for Clean Water

Chante described the [Choose Clean Water Coalition](#), a Chesapeake Bay advocacy group composed of existing organizations (Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Virginia Conservation Network, etc), grouped

together under the sponsorship of the National Wildlife Foundation to speak with a greater voice. Kris advised FACC is joining the coalition.

• *Friends of Holmes Run*

Joe told us about his family's roots along Holmes Run, his solo cleanup endeavors, and plans to seek out others interested in conserving this neighboring stream. The group offered encouragement and support.

• *Potomac Watershed Cleanup*

Philip confirmed we are on course for the beginning of the Potomac Watershed Cleanup March 28, and volunteers have begun to sign up. Tony mentioned the first Braddock district-wide cleanup on April 11th, and sought suggestions for areas the new Friends of Audrey Moore might address near the rec center.

• *Whole Foods Funds/Mastenbrook Grant*

Sandy and Philip described the mussel survey estimate we have received from Daguna Consulting and a higher priced quotation from another professional surveyor. There was general consensus to proceed. There was discussion of how we can access our funds held by the Fairfax County Park Foundation and whether the Friends of Lake Accotink Park will contribute. Tony recommended that Daguna's proposal be addressed to the Foundation and FLAP.

• *Represent FACC*

○ *Making The Ask Mar. 28*

Sue may be able to attend this workshop on fundraising for friends of parks. Philip passed on the suggestion from Friends of Nottoway that we ask for accounting advice at the workshop.

○ *Snakehead Forum Feb. 22*

Sue described this gathering, cosponsored by FACC. The presenter, John Odenkirk of VDGIF, concluded that snakeheads have not lived up to the fears they originally inspired and have not had significant impact on native species.

○ *Old Lee Highway "Great Street" Meeting Mar. 19*

Philip noted Fairfax City has plans for Old Lee Hwy that may have watershed impacts.

○ *Green Inspirations Mar. 22-26*

Philip reported that due to sponsorship issues, the film festival will not take place this year. Kris commented that Fairfax High School is planning a film festival.

○ *Earth Day event Apr. 22*

Sue described preparations for a joint Mantua/FACC event, with presentations on several topics.

○ *Walnut Hill Farm*

Sue relayed an invitation to hold our April meeting at Walnut Hill Farm, 6:30 – 8:00 to enjoy the benefit of daylight. The group was in accord with the idea. There was discussion about paths to preserve this property as open space, including donation to the Park Authority or a conservation easement.

• *I-66 Project*

Kris described FACC coordination with the Coalition for Smarter Growth, Sierra Club, and Providence District Council to sponsor a [March 25 public forum](#). Flint expounded on the shortcomings of the project's current approach to an environmental impact statement.

• *Route 1 Widening*

Kris spoke about a survey of the Rt. 1 widening projected he had done with Philip & Nick Kuttner of the Potomac Riverkeeper. While the erosion and sediment controls generally looked adequate, there were some problems he is following up on with the Federal Highway Administration.

• *Americana Park Meadow*

Suzy and Kris discussed the native meadow restoration in Americana Park on April 17 and 18. FACC is recruiting partner organizations and volunteers for this collaborative initiative.

- Grant Proposal

Kris presented a spreadsheet with proposed reimbursements of FACC members for past and future actions in support of the communications and outreach purpose of the grant. As several members of the group found the format confusing, Kris will rework and resubmit.

- Friends of Little Rocky Run Funds

Kris observed that he had agreed to assist our fellow watershed group by temporarily holding \$1000 in grant funds from the Navy Federal Credit Union.

- Wakefield Park Stream Restorations

Suzy noted construction should begin in April on two tributary restoration projects in Wakefield Park. Philip indicated there is still interest in a plant rescue here. Suzy will work on arranging that.

- Coalition of Watershed Friends in Fairfax

Kris updated us on a recent meeting regarding the combined sewage overflows of Old Town Alexandria with the Potomac Riverkeeper and representatives from several local environmental groups. The goal is to encourage effective action on this important pollution issue.

- Pickett Road Development

Sue talked about a new development proposed in Fairfax City that would shoehorn 80 condos onto a small wooded lot just uphill from Thaiss Park on Pickett Road. There is concern about stormwater issues relating to the project.

- Friends of Eakin Park

Sue relayed a description of the first efforts at forming a group of friends of Eakin Park. She described their first effort, a letter to the Park Authority, as needing some improvement.

- WMATA Cinder Bed Road

Suzy had no news on this project.

- Library Presentation

Kris confirmed he will be the sole presenter at Kings Park Library April 23rd.

- BioBlitz: Kris (2 min)

Kris had no new developments.

- Port Royal Rezoning

Philip mentioned two upcoming public meetings on the topic of the U-Haul facility proposed on Port Royal Road.

- Expand our monthly meeting summaries into a newsletter

While there was interest in a newsletter, there was little commitment to producing one. Philip declared he would resolve the issue by relabeling our monthly meeting notes as a "bulletin". Ted observed others could contribute material as they wished.

Philip Latasa

Friends of Accotink Creek
