



## 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 – August 16, 2016

Next Meeting: September 20, 2016 (Third Tuesday of each month)  
Audrey Moore Rec Center, Senior Center Lobby

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#### **Present:**

Dave Lincoln  
Suzy Foster  
Kris Unger  
Beverley Rivera  
Philip Latasa  
Pat Locket – Welcome, Pat!

#### **Upcoming events**

- GMU Service Fair, September 9, 2016
- Flint Hill service Fair, September 9, 2016
- Lake Accotink Park Stream Monitoring, September 10, 2016
- International Coastal Cleanup, September & October, 2016
- Fall for Fairfax, October 1 & 2, 2016

#### **Action Items:**

- *Everyone – Brainstorm grant application ideas*
- *Ted - Contact Scout Store*
- *Dave - Coordinate cleanups with Vietnamese Youth Buddhist Association*
- *Philip – Coordinate cleanups with Asian American LEAD*
- *Sandy & Ted – Coordinate pharmaceutical scout project*
- *Dave & Kris – Plan October Accotink gorge Workday*

#### **FACC Subjects Discussed –**

- *Accotink Art:*

Philip shared a photo of a better-than-usual graffiti spotted along the CCT just north of Americana Park. Apparently painted with soluble paint, the “Spirit Rider of the Accotink” is already fading.



• Represent FACC:

- *Springfield Community BridgeWalk 8/30*  
Dave will attend and have an FACC display.
- *GMU Service Fair 9/9*  
Philip reported he has at last received confirmation of our registration and will have an FACC display. Kris mentioned Lands & Waters has sometimes employed GMU students.
- *Flint Hill School Service Fair 9/9*  
Philip remarked he today received an invitation to display at the service fair of Flint Hill School, inconveniently overlapping with the GMU fair. It appears no one present would be available.
- *Virginia Environmental Assembly*  
Philip inquired if anyone would be interested in attending this event in Charlottesville. Dave will check his schedule.
- *Chesapeake Watershed Forum 9/30 & 10/1*  
Philip noted the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay had offered FACC a scholarship to attend this event in Shepardstown, West Virginia, with cost varying from \$50 to \$220. The Alliance also asked us to share with others who might be interested, with an eye toward diversity. Dave suggested sharing with Friends of Little Hunting Creek.

Suzy pointed out the Forum dates overlap those of Fall for Fairfax, which FACC joined in 2015. We are invited back again this year. Dave will attend.

• Truro Restoration:

Philip reported the rescues continue and the rescued native plants, mostly ferns, seem to be holding up in their new locations just outside the area to be disturbed. Suzy encouraged us to mention the rescues on Facebook. Kris will follow up

• Grant at Little Run Elementary:

FACC has received a \$7500 grant from Fairfax Water for watershed education initiatives at Little Run Elementary School. Kris talked about meetings planned with Danielle Wynne of Stormwater Planning and with Misty Claterbuck, science teacher, to discuss collaboration. Kris hopes to cover much of the academic activity this fall, followed by conservation projects in spring. Kris will issue a press release shortly.

Philip suggested the school could be a venue for storm drain art. Philip also asked if a separate bank account is advisable to handle the grant funds. Beverley will check with our bank.

Discussion covered watershed education activity at Mantua Elementary, habitat stewardship funds available to Elaine Tholen of Fairfax County Public Schools, and a related grant to Lands & Waters from the Chesapeake Bay Foundation.

• Community Grant:

Kris advised FACC can reapply for a new grant of up to \$5000 after accounting for the use made of the last grant. To that end, Kris shared a spreadsheet accounting for all funds which he will report to the grantor shortly. We can request a new grant with only general purposes stated, and then find specific applications as we go along. Ideas surfacing in the brainstorming discussion of possible grant uses included projects at both Sandy's and Dave's churches, and additional plantings at Americana Park.

• FACC Funds Status:

Beverley advised we have \$674 in checking and \$1580 in savings. These funds are FACC general funds, with all the community grant funds having been used as per Kris' accounting above. Discussion covered FACC's meager sources of ongoing income, with Philip lamenting how little use of [Goodshop](#) and [Goodsearch](#) our supporters make. Suzy suggested we make the painless nature of giving more plain on our home page. Philip will do so.

• International Coastal Cleanup:

Philip noted the schedule is posted online and with Clean Virginia Waterways and Volunteer Fairfax. Suzy suggested we contact Boy Scout Troop 1532. Kris will do so.

• Litter Initiatives:

Dave described our meeting with Betsy Martin of Friends of Little Hunting Creek where the consensus was to plan an attention-getting and inspiring anti-litter direct action. Betsy's proposed target is the International Bottled Water Association headquarters in Alexandria, with the aim of asking them to cease opposing bottle deposit bills. Dave urged all to keep ideas flowing regarding date, location, publicity, and the nature of the action.

Kris opined we need to become more provocative. Dave added we need to take issue with the target's past actions.



Discussion covered possible alternate venues, linking the date with the General Assembly session, and involving allied groups. Attention-getting suggestions included displaying collected bottles in clear bags, nailing our proposal to the door like Martin Luther's theses, a "trash man" costume, and a rolling trash ball.

Ideas for overcoming the Association's 6<sup>th</sup> floor location included climbing with suction cups and a trash balloon lift.



• 495 Express Lanes:

Philip explained another meeting of the Fairfax County Restoration Project on August 9<sup>th</sup> brought another VDOT spreadsheet with lists of action pending. There was some sense that things would move in fall, at least the easier ones.

- Dominion Meadow Restoration:

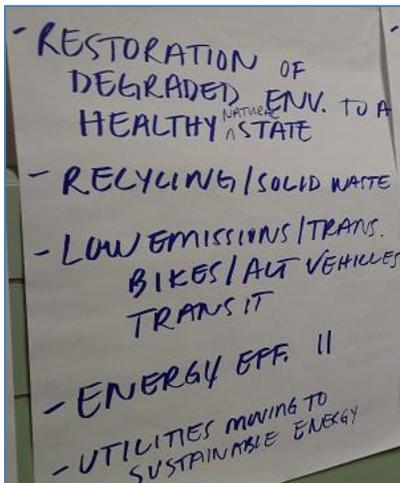
Philip let us know that the August 9<sup>th</sup> Fairfax County Restoration Project meeting included discussion of a possible large-scale meadow restoration project in cooperation with Dominion in the power lines right of way where it crosses property of three civic associations – Lafayette Village, Holmes Run Village, and Raintree, all on the inside of 495 between Little River Turnpike and Gallows Road. Should this go forward, we could encourage others to join in such as the Park Authority and Danbury Forest. There may be opportunities for related initiatives in the Accotink Gorge area.

- Americana Drive Cleanup:

Kris related another idea from the Fairfax County Restoration Project meeting, that of applying for a Transurban grant of up to \$1500 to fund contractor support for a cleanup of Americana Drive, together with the adjacent homeowners associations. Amy Gould of FCRP will write a proposal.

- Watershed Stewards Academy:

Kris discussed information he had recently shared by email describing the [Watershed Stewards](#) program in place in Maryland. It is similar to Virginia Master Naturalists, but with a focus on promoting watershed friendly practices. Kris pondered the possibility of working in partnership with DPWES and NVSWCD.



- Coalitions:

- Board of Supervisors Environmental Vision Update*

Dave went to the July 20 Fairfax County Environmental Vision public meeting regarding updating of the 2008 Vision. Dave reported he pushed multiple public and private watershed initiatives and got some good words in. Dave indicated there was much public push on climate issues.

Kris attended the July 27 meeting and observed that county staff want to do more environmentally and are looking to the Vision as a vehicle to show public input in support. Kris will submit written comments on behalf of FACC.

- Wakefield Run Monitoring:

Philip let us know the George Washington School had to reschedule our August date and he's had no luck getting a response since then. Philip will work with Ted to reschedule. Suzy commented that Stormwater Planning intends to do some invasives control and replanting along Wakefield Run.

Kris mentioned that Lands & Waters and Fairfax High School are continuing to monitor Daniels Run in and below the recent restoration project.

- Accotink Gorge:

Philip asked if we have any new plans. Discussion zeroed in on an awareness walk/workday October 15<sup>th</sup> in the afternoon following the morning Lake Accotink Park cleanup. Dave and Kris will plan details. Philip mentioned his idea, should we procure funding, of combining gorge work with a summer work program.

- *NVSWCD Meeting:*

Kris recounted a meeting with Laura Grape and Lily Whitesell of Northern Virginia Soil & Water Conservation District. The topic was the Conservation Assistance Program which provides guidance and funding for stormwater projects on property of civic associations, places of worship, and individual homes. With a focus on suburban and urban areas, the program allows NVSWCD to provide advice and support for projects such as rain gardens, infiltration trenches, etc., with financial assistance up to 50%. Kris observed NVSWCD is looking for pilot projects and FACC can complement their initiative, by announcements to membership and posting on Facebook, while looking for locations for projects. Philip will include an announcement in next month's meeting email.

Dave led discussion of the need for projects in his neighborhood, Daventry.

Philip mentioned that during the NVSWCD meeting, he advocated the idea of reviving the Flag Run grant proposal to extend the stream restoration planned by the county.

- *FACC Elections:*

Philip advised all prospective candidates to gear up their political action committees and fundraising appeals in advance of the December elections for the FACC offices of Primary Conservator, Secondary Conservator, and Chronicler.

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