



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 – October 17, 2017

Next Meeting: November 21, 2017 (Third Tuesday of each month)
Audrey Moore Rec Center, Senior Center Lobby

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Present:

Kris Unger
Philip Latasa
Julie Chang
Flint Webb
Dave Lincoln
Ted Welch
Sandy Collins
Chip Krivell

Upcoming events

- [Trash Day of Action](#), October 26, 2017
- Get2Green Workshop, November 6, 2017
- Lake Accotink Park Stream Monitoring, December 9, 2017

Action Items:

- Dave & Julie – Verify need for registration with Virginia Department of Agriculture
- Kris – Check on Merrifield farmers market space
- Philip – Arrange Americana Northside project
- Sandy - Obtain information on Frontier Drive
- Dave & Julie – Contact Virginia Conservation Network regarding General Assembly Preview

FACC Subjects Discussed –

- Represent FACC:

- *Virginia Environmental Assembly 9/22*
Julie described the assembly as an occasion for familiarization and networking with staff and partners of the Virginia Conservation Network. Friends of the Rappahannock hosted at Mary Washington University in Fredericksburg. The tone was weighted toward the political, with emphasis on engagement with a divided electorate and electing a governor who is willing to listen. Julie made contacts with Del Vivian Watts (44) and Del. Gerald Anderson (88).
- *Wild Plant Nursery Sale 9/24*
Kris let us know this event had gone well for us, although there was nothing especially eventful to report. Kris, Dave, and Elaine did have the chance to talk to visitors in a friendly environment.

- *NOVA Environmental Film Festival 10/24 & 10/25*
Philip advised there will not be tabling opportunities at the Film Festival, but there will be at the NOVA Green Festival in spring.

- *Trash Summit 11/16*
Philip inquired who might attend the Alice Ferguson Foundation’s Trash Summit. Kris plans to attend, and, as part of the Trash Action Work Force, will be hosting a panel discussion. He is looking for one other person to act as host with him. Without objection, the group approved registration reimbursement up to \$75. The discussion led to fond recollections of the year the Summit awarded FACC the 2014 Potomac Champion Award, crafted of a piece of driftwood which inspired the “Accotink salute”.



2014 – The Accotink salute is born.

- *General Assembly Preview 12/2*
Philip asked who planned to attend the Virginia Conservation Network's annual General Assembly Preview in Richmond. Julie plans to be there. There was general discussion of how FACC legislative issues can be advanced. Dave and Julie will enquire with the Virginia Conservation Network. Chip shared his anecdote of recently witnessing a roadside mower hitting a cooler, which burst into a cloud of atomized Styrofoam.

• Accotink Gorge:

Julie indicated three SOLitude Lake Management personnel supported our October 10th workday as glyphosate applicators. Groups worked on either side of the creek, and attacked invasives such as Autumn Olive and Asiatic Bittersweet, in addition to the main target species, Chinese Wisteria. Kris mentioned the enthusiasm of the SOLitude personnel. He noted we were able to more effectively address the ground runner vines and observed that many vines we had cut in the past did die, even without herbicide.

Kris let us know another workday will be set up in late winter, and possibly on a quarterly basis after that.

Julie discussed how the site scoring system of the Park Authority Invasive Management Program is weighted toward places that have already been treated.



Returning from victory over the vines

- *First Lego League Project:*

Kris followed up the discussion from last month's meeting to point out a meeting is needed to review the project. Kris will coordinate with Julie, Ted, & Flint.

- *Americana Park Northside Project:*

Philip reported a meeting of interested parties is being put together, courtesy of Fairfax County Restoration Project, and Suzy is digging up the plans and costs for the Americana Park meadows, so we can adapt for any new grant. We will try to interest FCDOT in fixing the eroding trail in the same location. The extensive stands of Chinese lespedeza are a complicating factor. VDOT presented a cooperative attitude during a site survey today.

- *Trash Action Work Force:*

Kris advised the [Trash Day of Action](#) is next Thursday. There is some confusion on the date of the next planning meeting. Corporate Accountability International will conduct a social media training October 23rd. CAI is also planning to deliver a petition to the National Park Service, with details TBD.

- *International Coastal Cleanup:*

Philip advised we concluded the International Coastal Cleanup last Saturday. We had 200 volunteers for the season, who collected 234 bags of trash. Groups collaborating with us included Virginia Eagle Distributing, Temple Adat Reyim, and Northern Virginia Community College. Philip displayed the most unusual item yet found in Accotink Creek, the carved wooden head of an apparent Balinese deity.



- *Frost Middle School/Get2Green workshop:*

Kris announced we will have a Get2Green sustainable schoolyard workshop for teachers at Frost Middle School on November 6. Alice Ferguson Foundation and Friends of Long Branch Stream Valley will be joining. Frost is showing signs of becoming a strong partner and Kris will seek a funding grant.

Student teams are currently engaged in preparing proposals for environmental enhancement projects on campus. The group discussed one such proposal, for a vehicle no-idle zone.

There was also discussion of suggestions of an Invasive Management Area project by students in nearby Smokewood Park.

- *Little Run Elementary:*

Kris reports nothing current, but he will be pushing for follow-up.

- *Wakefield Run Monitoring:*

Philip shared the results of September 28th stream monitoring of [Wakefield Run](#) and was pleased with a stream health score of 6 for biological monitoring, just two points short of acceptable.

- *TSA Springfield Headquarters:*

Sandy advised TSA is planning underground vaults for stormwater control. She will seek more information on the extension of Frontier Drive.

- Chesapeake Bay Farm Bill:

Kris reported he had signed FACC to the Choose Clean Water Coalition's letter of support for Senator Van Hollen's Chesapeake Bay Farm Bill Enhancements Act of 2017.

- #GivingTuesday:

Philip informed us we had joined Fairfax CASA (Fairfax Court Appointed Special Advocates) to co-sign their request for a Mayoral Proclamation that November 28th be acknowledged as [#GivingTuesday](#) by the Fairfax City Council and Mayor.

- FACC Election:

Philip announced we will have FACC Elections for Purser & Conservator-at-Large at our December meeting.

- GIS Day:

Chip encouraged all to attend the Fairfax County GIS Day to learn how this mapping technology can benefit watershed issues.
