



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 – April 17, 2018

Next Meeting: May 15, 2018 (Third Tuesday of each month)
Audrey Moore Rec Center, Senior Center Lobby

SUPPORT/DONATE
It's easy & free!

Present:

Lisa Turcios, Philip Latasa, Dave Lincoln, Kris Unger, Beverley Rivera, Elaine Sevy, Shane Shroeder

Upcoming events

- Teen Job Fair, April 28, 2018
- Potomac Watershed Cleanup, weekends in April & May, 2018
- NVCC Green Festival, April 25 & 26, 2018
- Trash Day of Action, May 5, 2018
- Flag Run Stream Monitoring, May 19, 2018
- Lake Accotink Park Stream Monitoring, June 9, 2018

Action Items:

- Philip – Arrange Americana Northside project
- Kris – Coordinate with M.O.M.s
- Lisa – Arrange NVCC Green Festival participation

FACC Subjects Discussed –

• Represent FACC:

○ *2018 Lobby Day 3/21*

Lisa and Kris attended this occasion on Capitol Hill organized by Choose Clean Water and focused on the Chesapeake Bay and described it as successful and well run. The various organizations represented were asking for full Chesapeake Bay Program funding and for funding of the Agriculture Bill conservation provisions. Some members of Congress had to cancel due to the snow that day, but otherwise attendance was good. Representatives Connolly, Comstock, and Beyer dropped by the lunch event. Lisa and Kris met with Senator Warner's aide Micah Barbour and Representative Connolly's aide Jaime Smith, who indicated the reclassification of a reservoir in Chesterfield as a stormwater facility may apply to Lake Accotink.

○ *Federation Plastics Presentation 3/29*

Kris reported the presentation went well despite his late arrival. Lisa mentioned the good turnout.

○ *NVCC Green Festival 4/25 & 4/26*

Lisa has registered for April 25 at Alexandria campus and April 26 Annandale campus.

• Trash Action Work Force:

Kris advised there are no dramatic developments. There has been little success interesting additional organizations. Kris mentioned [Arlingtonians for a Clean Environment](#) is very organized, after attending their 40 Day Plastic Fast event. Lisa confirmed their paid staff sends our regular professional emails. Philip pointed out he had attended the [Styrofoam Mom](#) movie screening and she had invited someone to speak about the [Trash Day of Action](#) on her internet TV show.

• Donation.:

The Federation Plastics Presentation had direct benefit for FACC, Philip let us know. Erika Yalowitz enjoyed the presentation so much she sent a \$40 donation.

• M.O.M.S.:

We will have a table at the April 22 Save the Dandelions event at M.O.M.s, Philip mentioned. M.O.M.s staff will probably will join one or more cleanups.

• INOVA/Exxon-Mobil.:

Lisa let us know the last of three advisory group meetings is today. The Coalition for Smarter Growth and Sierra Club are supporting the proposal as smart growth. This will be on the June 21st Planning Commission meeting agenda.

• Potomac Watershed Cleanup:

Our spring stream cleanup season began March 31st with a private cleanup for West End Rugby on Wakefield Run, Philip informed us.

On April 7th despite the dire weather forecast, the Lake Accotink cleanup went ahead and had 215 volunteers in decent weather.

Julie Tahan, the park manager, has accepted a promotion to Park Authority HQ after many years at Lake Accotink. Kris suggested a meeting with the new management, once in place.

We had our own cleanups on April 14th, starting in the Accotink Gorge and adjacent areas. Elsewhere in our watershed on the same day Kings Park Men's Tennis Group cleaned up in Kings Park Park, while Jack Buckley led his usual cleanup on Hunters Branch, and Washington Metro Chapter Community Associations Institute cleaned at Hallman Stree near the source in Fairfax City.

On May 6th Dave is organizing a cleanup by Grace Presbyterian Church in the Brookfield Park area.

On April 29th is the "We are the Medicine: Shamanic Healing Ceremony & Trash Challenge" led by Michelle Roberts. Michelle was stirred to act by the Save Lake Accotink movement and also gave FACC a \$75 donation.

We need to once again give recognition to Ted Plunkett, who back in January and February took on solo cleanups of Wakefield Park, hauling out 96 bags of trash and 27 tires, all documented with graphics and an impressive video we've put on our YouTube site.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=00YByR22D2w>



Ted's Tally

- Long Branch Falls Park Restoration:

Work is underway for the restoration project on the unnamed stream in Long Branch Falls Park off King David Blvd, Philip conveyed. We did a limited plant rescue.

- Volunteer Fairfax Renewal:

Philip presented an invoice for renewal of our Volunteer Fairfax membership, of \$112.50 (\$75/year, plus prorated partial year due to a change in their billing cycle). Beverley issued a reimbursement check

- Americana Northside Project:

A meeting took place March 26th with representatives of several different entities, attended by Philip and Kris. The outcome is that Fairfax County DOT is not yet prepared to proceed with the trail paving portion, but should be in the next couple years. We may have to wait on them, but a site visit will happen April 19th and may lead to new ideas. Dave inquired about the possibility of pervious pavement. Philip said he would enquire, especially since this site has no trees, which are often given as a reason to not use pervious pavement.

- Vernal Pool:

Dave briefed us on the event, noting the attendance of local “enviro” stars, Alonso Abugattas, Su Jewell, and Alan Ford, as well as a group from Arlington 4H. Vernal pool expert Mike Hayslett led the group on a reconnaissance of several pools in the vicinity of the Lake Accotink Park trestle and one, possibly an old steam train pond, west of the lake. Unfortunately, most of the pools were drying out, partly due to the weather and partly to intentional drainage efforts. Mike may be able to prevail upon the Park Authority to restore those pools being drained and we should support that. A discussion of the Park Authority and vernal pools followed.

Dave also took Mike to the stream valley below Old Keene Mill, where there are pools that may be the remains of an old farm drainage system.

- Financial Report:

Beverley reported on the state of FACC finances. We have just shy of \$3400 in the bank. A total of five checks were issued last year. There followed a broad discussion of possible uses for this bountiful treasure, touching on new displays, encouraging watershed improvement projects, outreach contests, and monthly outreach events. The outreach events idea got some traction, with suggestions for a focus on Accotink Gorge, Long Branch, Wakefield Run, Lake Accotink, and the King Arthur/495.

- Newsletter Proposal:

Philip relayed the bad news that we had missed the deadline for the Ravensworth Farm newsletter to list our spring cleanup schedule. A discussion of other article or advertising options followed, without conclusions.

- Fairfax Water:

The next grant proposal is due May 15th. Kris is still putting together proposals.

- Lake Accotink Park Master Plan:

Shane pondered a possible Save Lake Accotink meeting April 23rd. The next public Master Plan meeting is April 30th, and the comments period may be further extended after that. The thought is in

the air to put the two favored lake options (forebay and smaller lake) on the 2019 ballot. A discussion of the condition of macroinvertebrates upstream and downstream of the dam followed.

- *Audubon Classes:*

Lisa recommended upcoming [Audubon Stream Science Classes](#).
