



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 – June 19, 2018

Next Meeting: July 17, 2018 (Third Tuesday of each month)
Audrey Moore Rec Center, Senior Center Lobby

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Present:

Dave Lincoln, Kris Unger, Flint Webb, Sandy Collins, Philip Latasa, Lisa Turcios, Suzy Foster, Kim Schauer
Bryan Campbell – Friends of Long Branch Stream Valley
Bill Corfitzen – Welcome, Bill!
Woody Lipinski – Welcome, Woody!

Upcoming events

- Lake Accotink Park Stream Monitoring, September 8, 2018
- Plastic-Free Forum, September 22, 2018

Action Items:

- Philip – Arrange Americana Northside project
- Kris – Coordinate with The Nature Conservancy

FACC Subjects Discussed –

• Watch the Green Grow:

Kim recapped how, as an offshoot of FCPA's encroachment education campaign, the Park Authority has been developing a community outreach and education program that encourages stewardship actions called Watch the Green Grow.

There are two parts:

1. Work with schools as part of the [Meaningful Watershed Education Experience](#) program
2. Outreach to homeowners and park neighbors



Kim explains Watch the Green Grow

Kim is looking to work with environmental “block leaders” or volunteer groups, and has a dozen such partners so far. Activities will include presentations to groups along with restoration projects in parks. Kim will also be organizing special training for teachers in schools next to parks. She is applying for grant funding and welcomes all suggestions for the program.

[NOTE: Kris wrote a letter of support from FACC for the grant application to the [Virginia Environmental Endowment](#).]

• The Nature Conservancy:

Kris is still working on renewing discussions with The Nature Conservancy.

- Trash Action Work Force:

Kris discussed the May 5th [Trash Day of Action](#) and was concerned about a drop in energy.

Philip advised 350 Fairfax could not come to terms with EcoArlington for a joint plastic free month challenge, so will do consecutive or overlapping dates for Fairfax County. They plan a Plastic Free Forum on September 22 featuring Chap Petersen and others. We are invited to table or otherwise participate.

- Clean Fairfax Council Map:

Kris reported Clean Fairfax Council is interested in putting FACC cleanups on their [online map](#). Bryan added that CFC's goal is to be a one-stop clearinghouse for local stewardship opportunities.

- Alice Ferguson Coordinating Cleanup Data:

According to Kris, the Alice Ferguson Foundation (a member of the Trash Action Work Force) is coordinating with local government agencies on recording cleanup data. How to energize and activate data collection is a central question.

- Frontier Drive Extension:

Philip noted The Northern Virginia Transportation Authority funded a portion of funds to extend Frontier Drive. It is \$25 million out of \$70 million, so we shall have to learn how much will be done. Flint opined this was enough for surveying and clearing, while Dave quipped there might also be a sign with the Governor's picture.

- SERCAP:

Philip advised we were contacted by the Southeast Rural Community Assistance Project about being a host for college students in their Alternative Break program. He thought it might be nice to get a group working the Accotink Gorge or along Americana Drive, but felt it is beyond our capacity, since we would be expected to provide lodging, meals, and "cultural immersion". Philip shared the [Alternative Break brochure](#) and asked for any ideas on taking advantage. Suggestions included working with GMU, churches, and AmeriCorps, but no conclusions were reached.

- Flag Run Restoration:

Philip explained we have done two native plant rescues ahead of the stream restoration project and hope to do a few more through the summer. The rescues so far were ad hoc among neighbors, but Philip will put a future date on or calendar.

- 4104 Woodlark Drive:

Philip let us know the developer appealed to the Board of Supervisors after being turned down for additional intrusion into the Resource Protection Area by the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Ordinance Exception Review Committee. The issue was to have been heard by the Board of Supervisors today, but the appeal was withdrawn, likely because it was receiving no support from either the county attorney or Supervisor Cook. [NOTE: We have learned this issue is expected to be on the Board agenda again in August.]

- *Americana Drive:*

Philip shared the news that Avant Apartments off Americana Drive is under [new management](#) and is now called The Vistas. The new management promises to make improvements to their trash problems, including the dumping between Americana Drive and the beltway. Philip stated it is in their self-interest to get the dumping under control so the county does not restrict street parking on Americana. Lisa mentioned new parking restriction signs on one stretch of Americana Drive, but is not sure if this is temporary.

- *TMDL:*

Dave let us know the [EPA approval](#) of the Accotink Creek TMDL was announced at the May 24th SaMS Salt Management Strategy meeting. Kris passed on conversations with VDOT representatives at the same meeting indicating the chloride issue is getting attention at the top of VDOT. Dave added the Accotink Creek salt strategy will be an example for all of Virginia. Flint observed salt impairment affects many streams.

Dave related how SaMS members had toured a water treatment plant and learned chloride content of intake water is approaching taste detectable levels, with no practical means to eliminate it. Dave also related the anecdote of a highway project blocked in New Hampshire where it was shown 30% of salt application was on private property. One property manager, a representative of a large supermarket chain, stated his standard for salt application was "I want to feel the crunch".

Flint stated the need to reach private property owners through Chambers of Commerce, but also lamented the resistance he had faced from Chambers to learning about the [C-PACE](#) energy cost-sharing program.

- *Follow the Water:*

- *Little Run Elementary*

Kris reported he led planting and watershed workshops in June. The program at Little Run will wrap up in about one month. Bryan may bring in Cub Scouts for the final activities.

- *West Springfield Elementary*

A neighbor concerned with trash in the next-door park brought this school to Kris' attention. He spent an afternoon with the 4th grade classes, doing watershed presentations and explorations of the park.

- *Haycock Elementary*

Kris and Philip surveyed the school grounds with teachers interested in watershed-friendly student projects and provided references to Stormwater Planning. The teachers are also in touch with Kim, as the school is adjacent to a park.

Flint described his contact with a recipient of a grant for air quality monitoring stations at schools. He is working with the Air & Waste Management Association and will also contact Kim.

- *Vernal Pool Article:*

Philip pointed out Dave and Beverley's article on the Lake Accotink vernal pool exploration made it into the [Fairfax Times](#), both online and print versions.

- *Air & Waste Management Association Award:*

The group offered congratulations and applause to Flint for receiving a [Fellow Membership Award](#) by the Air & Waste Management Association.

- I-66:

Philip talked about his trek up the [North Fork of Accotink Creek](#), made in anticipation of the I-66 project. The North Fork flows through the I-66 cloverleaf at Chain Bridge Road. The cloverleaf was fully wooded, but one leaf has been bulldozed and no doubt the others will follow soon. Surprisingly, there are abundant fish within the cloverleaf – all doomed, no doubt.

- INOVA/Exxon-Mobil:

Flint brought up the Planning Commission hearing on June 21st which would approve study of the workplan, followed by a markup session on June 28th, before being sent to the Board of Supervisors. The study will also be sent back to the community review committee. This procedure is for changing the Comprehensive Plan, to be followed by zoning changes.

Kris suggested wildlife corridors could be a consideration and Kim mentioned the Northern Virginia Regional Commission has [corridor information](#) on their website. Lisa relayed a conversation with Northern Virginia Conservation Trust staff who recalled the site had been certified by the Wildlife Habitat Council some years ago. Kim wondered whether there could be threatened species present. Flint noted the value of nature for recovering patients and mentioned the possibility a conservation easement could already apply to the site. Philip observed that only three acres of the INOVA site are in the Accotink Creek watershed.

Flint explained the increased “FAR” (Floor Area Ratio to land units) INOVA is seeking could be built as taller buildings, rather than increased footprint.

Suzy pointed out the INOVA site and nearby Fairview site straddle the Beltway and are likely to be considered together.

- Lake Accotink Park Master Plan:

Philip indicated Supervisor Cook presented the Save Lake Accotink petition with over 4000 signatures to the Board of Supervisors on June 5th. Five supervisors spoke favorably. [Link to video](#) (17 minutes)

Flint recounted a recent discussion of Lake Accotink Park at a meeting of the Fairfax Committee of 100 and the Park Authority Board, wherein the future of the lake was seen as assured.

- Trails:

Woody took a few moments to state his interest in paving the remainder of the Cross County Trail in Lake Accotink Park. Discussion followed, with the group expressing reservations.

Flint mentioned that Northern Virginia has a [plant producing pervious concrete](#), an alternative material for trails.
