



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 – July 17, 2018

Next Meeting: August 21, 2018 (Third Tuesday of each month)
Audrey Moore Rec Center, Senior Center Lobby

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Present:

Dave Lincoln, Kris Unger, Flint Webb, Philip Latasa, Bill Corfitzen, Beverley Rivera
Allan Robertson – Welcome, Allan!
Nancy Hall – Welcome Nancy!

Upcoming events

- Lake Accotink Park Stream Monitoring, September 8, 2018
- Plastic-Free Forum, September 22, 2018
- International Coastal Cleanup, September & October, 2018

Action Items:

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

FACC Subjects Discussed –

• The Nature Conservancy:

Kris is still working on this one.

• Trash Action Work Force:

Kris will partner with EcoAction Arlington on their [fall plastic fast](#), dates TBD. Trash Action Work Force may also work with EcoAction to target Nestle headquarters in Arlington for the fall Trash Day of Action. 350 Fairfax is also planning its own plastic-free challenge during October. Kris pointed out both actions target single-use plastics.

Philip added that 350 Fairfax is planning a kick off forum on September 22nd featuring a panel talk about single use plastics, and tabling for other groups. There were no immediate takers.

• Flag Run Restoration:

Philip recounted how he had done three small native plant rescues in advance of the stream restoration project. One more is scheduled this Saturday, July 21st, 10 – 1. Additional dates can be arranged, if requested.

• *Gallows Road Retirement Development:*

Philip briefed us on a [proposed retirement community development](#) of single-family houses and townhouses on Gallows Road just inside the Beltway, on the same parcels where a townhouse development was rejected last year. Approval will require presentations before the Mason District Land Use Committee, a hearing before the Planning Commission, and a hearing before the Board of Supervisors. The Mason District Land Use Committee meeting is on July 24th at 7:30 pm at the Mason District Government Center. Philip noted these parcels are generally long and narrow with a fair percentage of wooded area that could be jeopardized. ([Annandale Blog article](#))

• *INOVA/Exxon-Mobil:*

In informal pre-meeting conversation, Bill expressed some pros and cons as seen by neighbors, emphasizing the appeal of specialty cancer treatments.

Flint advised he had met with representatives of the Fairview area, a nearby proposed development that is linked to the INOVA site. Both projects are currently in county impact review, then go back to the citizen review committee, which has already rejected a higher proposed density for the INOVA site. Philip inquired how FACC could influence the process. Kris renewed his idea for arranging a site tour with interested parties. Bill recalled the site had once hosted a Nike missile battery.



• *4104 Woodlark Drive:*

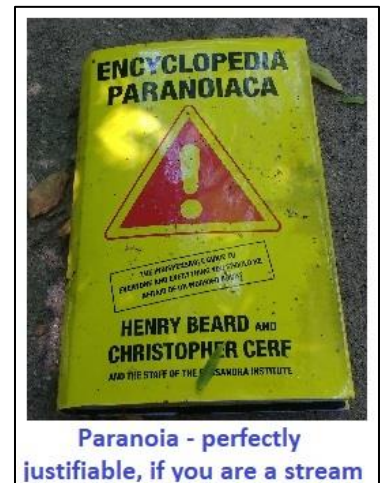
Philip advised the [Woodlark Drive](#) applicant is coming back to the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Ordinance Exception Review committee to reapply for an exception. The lawsuit has been resolved in with a permanent injunction in favor of enforcing the 75' setback covenant. It looks like the hearing will probably be on September 5th. Kris provided a background recap of the issue. Flint described a similar case in his neighborhood. Philip invited ideas on how we could influence the case. Discussion meandered into the area of legal standing to file court motions, leading Dave to quip that, rather than “standing”, legal action on behalf of stream invertebrates would require “crawling”.

• *I-66 Project:*

Philip described doing surveys of the tributaries that cross I-66 in anticipation of the I-66 widening. The tree clearing has begun in earnest. Philip displayed a copy of *Encyclopedia Paranoiaca* he found along a tributary and interpreted as a prophecy by the Oracle of the Accotink foretelling the future of these unfortunate tributaries. The survey results are posted online ([Items 1, 3, 4, 5, & 24 HERE](#)).

• *TMDL:*

Philip mentioned the Accotink Creek Chloride TMDL was the topic of an [article in the Bay Journal](#) and asked if we should add an online comment. Dave will provide information for Philip regarding how chloride content of intake drinking water is approaching taste detectable levels. There was discussion of the various impacts of salt and chloride.



- International Coastal Cleanup:

Philip announced it's time to set dates for the fall cleanups. He proposed the dates below to avoid the September 8th stream monitoring and the Fairfax Plastic Free Challenge kick-off September 22nd. The dates suggested are below, but still subject to recommendations for changes:

September 1
September 15
September 29
October 6

Kris inquired if there are any changes needed to the way we conduct cleanups. Philip responded by lamenting the perennial inability to inspire long-term interest in our volunteers. Nancy pointed out she, at least, was one inspired volunteer. Discussion of possible new approaches focused mainly on making contact with civic associations and churches.

- Lake Accotink Park Master Plan:

Philip recalled in an earlier meeting he had mentioned the possibility of visiting the dam interior to judge possibilities for internal fish passage. However, the Park Authority says safety concerns, including possible toxic gas, don't permit this. No one seems to have any useful plans, either, although there are a few gloomy photos that don't convey much. Philip mentioned the toxic gas is likely the methane which is plentiful in the lake, as illustrated by his video of [setting the lake on fire](#). Allan suggested local historian Mary Lipsey may have ideas on locating plans. He also suggested a plumbers pipe inspection endoscope could document the interior.

Allan then brought up a suggestion from Tony Vellucci to organize a citizen task force on the master plan, which could among other things, push for a fish ladder. The thought is for the citizen task force to put together its own version of a draft master plan to present as a community vision. On item Allan proposed such a vision might include enhanced educational resources such as signs and a wetland boardwalk. Discussion suggested the initial approach to recruitment should be through the offices of the Braddock District supervisor and the Braddock District Council. Allan will pursue the idea.

Discussion turned to the forebay concept and the challenges of installing effective forebays at Braddock Road. Allan observed that new dry islands are emerging as sediment accumulates, prompting jokes about "planting our flag" to "claim" this new land. Allan's suggestion of a kayak fact-finding tour for supervisors and other elected officials also prompted the humorous suggestion that going out in the pontoon party boat, running aground on sediment, and asking the officials to push would truly focus their attention.



- Dogue Creek:

Kris relayed an appeal from the Friends of Little Hunting Creek to submit comments to the Planning Commission on a proposed development that will affect Dogue Creek, the small watershed that lies between Accotink Creek and Little Hunting Creek. Kris will send [written comments](#).

- Follow the Water:

- Little Run Elementary

- Kris announced we have completed the \$7500 project at Little Run Elementary which included planting on campus and community outreach. Kris is pondering next steps, given that the hoped-for community support needed to maintain the project has not materialized.

- School/Community Engagement:

- Funding

- Kris expressed his aversion to handling finding and indicated that for fall he will be seeking new schools without funding lined up. His target is \$500 for a two-day Follow the Water program and his aspiration is that schools will be able to provide funds. Nancy noted that PTA's raise funds and some schools have staff grantwriters. Allan suggested SACC's as one possible fund source and selling T-shirts or other tangible keepsakes to participants as another. Dave recalled the last Green Breakfast presentation had mentioned fitting presentations into SOL's. Allan wondered if addressing the matter at the school board level would be productive. Getting school science resource teachers invested in funding was also suggested.

- Poll

- Kris asked the group for thoughts on polling FACC's members with the purpose of stirring up more active participation. The group was receptive. Suggestions included making the questions more open-ended, keeping the tone of questions positive, and placing the poll in the Annandale Blog.

- Organizing Workshop

- Kris recounted his ongoing conversations with a community organizer who provides leadership workshops. He is mulling over the benefits of hosting such a workshop, at a cost of \$1500. Flint mentioned the Air & Waste Management Association has leadership training annually. Nancy observed that the GMU Leadership Institute has interns to spare. Philip stated FACC has enough funds for the workshop, but asked what results we could expect. Kris acknowledged we would need a good plan, good partners, and a good turnout.
