



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 – September 18, 2018

Next Meeting: Octoberber 16, 2018 (Third Tuesday of each month)
Audrey Moore Rec Center, Senior Center Lobby

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Present:

Bill Corfitzen, Katie Lau, Sandy Collins, Philip Latasa, Julie Chang, Bryan Campbell, Kris Unger

Upcoming events

- Lake Accotink Park Stream Monitoring, October 13, 2018
- International Coastal Cleanup, September & October, 2018
- Trash Day of Action, October 30, 2018
- Mount Vernon Environmental Fair Nov. 10, 2018

Action Items:

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

FACC Subjects Discussed –

• Represent FACC:

- INOVA Project Sept. 12, 2018
No one present attended the meeting. Kris however, had walked the site and observed that the Accotink Creek watershed portion is “blown out” and eroded.
- NVCC Experiential Learning Sept. 21, 2018
Philip will be attending and invited others to join.
- NVCC Waste & Recycling Symposium Oct. 17, 2018
Philip asked if anyone had time to represent FACC. There were no immediate offers.

• The Nature Conservancy:

Kris regretted his contact at The Nature Conservancy is now on extended maternity leave. Philip recalled we hope to interest The Nature Conservancy in the Accotink Gorge and it would be good to have them visit before cold weather.

• Trash Action Work Force:

Philip reported we had issued a check for \$196.10 for brochures from the funds we have been holding for TAWF. He also mentioned the Alice Ferguson Foundation annual Trash Summit is October 16th, 9:00 – 5:00 at George Mason University.

Kris noted the TAWF meeting would be tomorrow. He lamented low event turnout and lack of tangible impact while wishing we could bring out the [Chesapeake Mermaid](#).

[TAKE NOTE: TAWF will have its next [Trash Day of Action](#) Tuesday October 30, 2018]



- **4104 Woodlark Drive:**

Kris recapped the history of this project. Kris also described the meeting yesterday where the Braddock District Land Use Committee heard arguments from differing viewpoints and again voted against the project. Woodlark Drive comes up again Oct. 3 before the Chesapeake Bay Exception Review Committee.

- **Braddock Road:**

Philip recounted he and Kris attended a meeting only tangentially related to Braddock Road where they learned VDOT will take over the Braddock Road widening plan from FCDOT. The discussion at the meeting also offered some hope for movement forward on the Americana North trail and meadow proposal. There was discussion of how transportation funding changes have slowed the Braddock Road project and its possible connection to the Lake Accotink forebays.

- **I-66 Project:**

Philip advised he is still trying to arrange a meeting with VDOT to discuss stream protection. Bryan suggested scheduled public meetings may afford a forum for discussions. Philip is also continuing to do surveys of project erosion and sediment controls and putting those surveys online. So far, those controls seem more consistent and effective than earlier projects.

- **Gallows Road Retirement Development:**

According to Philip, the presentation before the Mason District Land Use Committee was postponed until September 25th, 2018 at 7:30pm. There is also a pre-meeting meeting of neighbors September 19th at the Friendship United Methodist Church to discuss talking points.

- TMDL:

Kris attended the most recent DEQ outreach meeting and advised the meetings so far have been mostly procedural, bringing together various Northern Virginia administrators. Kris observed those administrators are often at the mercy of angry citizens who call their elected representatives, who in turn pressure the administrators for more road treatments. Kris expressed the thought that those angry citizens could in theory be supplied with information on better practices.

- International Coastal Cleanup:

We had a disappointing start to the cleanup season on September 1st, Philip reported, when only one single volunteer joined in. We did a little better last weekend, with 20 volunteers for the day, but that is still a low number. Our next cleanups will be September 29th in the Mantua area. Philip shared an amusing cleanup video.



Angry turtle toy expresses its displeasure at becoming trash in Accotink Creek

- Lake Accotink Park Master Plan:

Philip passed on the news that Master Plan manager Gayle Hooper has departed for the Stormwater Planning Division and Eduardo Deleon has taken her place.

Philip recalled in a previous meeting we talked about inspecting the interior of the dam to assess possibilities for fish passage by using remote cameras of the type used for pipe inspection. It turns out the county itself has such equipment in both the Wastewater and stormwater Maintenance divisions. Philip is awaiting response from them.

- Follow the Water:

- Little Run Elementary

Kris passed on the news that DPWES will do a rain garden planting in October. Stream monitoring will continue with volunteer support while Kris tries for grant funding for equipment.

- Canterbury Woods Elementary

Kris led a discussion of possible extension of Follow the Water to Canterbury Woods.

- *Frost Middle*
There was also discussion of possible programs at Frost, but safety issues complicate access to the stream.
- *West Springfield Elementary*
Kris reviewed how a community member interested in trash issues originally got us involved. Kris is in discussions to return this school year.

- *Accotink Gorge:*

Philip asked if we want to organize another workday. There was consensus for mid-October. Philip will contact Solitude Lake Management for their support.

- *Flag Run Plant Rescue/Monitoring:*

Philip announced there would be a September 23 plant rescue and we also need to do one more stream monitoring before construction begins.

- *Wakefield Run Monitoring:*

Philip asked if anyone wants to help with the next monitoring of Wakefield Run. There is one more year left of our commitment to five years of monitoring. Bryan will check on scout availability.

- *Wakefield Park Stream Restoration:*

The proposal Philip described is to place approximately four [Newbury riffles](#) along an approximately 2000' stretch of the Accotink Creek in Wakefield Park. There is not much information on Newbury riffles, but the idea seems to be a low and wide structure of only 1% grade. Planning has only reached the study stage.

- *FACC Elections:*

We were again reminded by Philip that our elections for Primary Conservator, Secondary Conservator, and Chronicler are coming up at the December meeting. Kris indicated his interest in passing the Primary Conservator baton. Philip mentioned Sandy as most likely successor.

- *Calvary Church:*

Bill observed that Calvary Church of the Nazarene, on Little River Turnpike near NVCC, plans to buy land and extend a second driveway to the rear, off Woodland Avenue. This is Planning Commission case SE 2018-MA-006.

- *Conservation Leadership Project:*

Katie announced she has applied for the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District Conservation Leadership program. If accepted, she will need to design and complete a self-directed project. A mentor is a required element and Julie offered to fill that role.