

Friends of Accotink Creek Leadership Town Meeting - Feb 20, 2012 - Minutes

Next Meeting: Mar 19, 2012 location to be announced. (Third Monday of each month)

Present:

Kris Unger

Roger Diedrich

Liz Kirchner

Brian Parr

Karen Bushaw-Newton

Philip Latasa

Suzy Foster

Robert Greenberg

Olivier Giron

Subjects Discussed:

Lake Accotink Park Projects:

FACC will write a letter supporting the installation of a pervious parking lot and a minimal impact trail (Danbury Forest Ln) at Lake Accotink Park, to be addressed to supervisors and members of the Park Authority board. We will copy FLAP. (Action - Kris).

Philip reported from the FLAP meeting and follow-up communication with park board member Tony Vellucci that these two park projects are being planned, but await funding from the Nov. 2012 bond issue. The Park Authority seeks citizen input mostly through FLAP and the Danbury forest citizens association.

Suzy mentioned Ron Tuttle and Matt Myer as county personnel familiar with permeable paving issues pertinent to the repaving project. (Action – Suzy will follow up with them.)

Spring Cleanup:

Philip mentioned the recent publicity drew the attention of the West Springfield police station which may be cooperating with the sheriff's convict labor force to clean dumpsites. This was learned from park board member Tony Vellucci at the FLAP meeting. Tony is arranging for Olivier to speak at the March 6th police community advisory council.

Olivier met Feb 8th with the head of the county Health Department, to discuss ways to collaborate. The Health Department prioritizes dumpings that pose a health risk, and does not have the resources to address all trash.

Olivier has met Jennifer Cole of Clean Fairfax Council who is arranging introductions to other useful county personnel.

NVSWCD's TAFIE trash statistics project was discussed and could be connected with our regular cleanups. More information on what Dan Schwartz would need from us is required. Philip and Karen related their experience with the time consuming nature of some other trash statistics programs. (Action – Liz will write an Annandale Blog article about TAFIE and get more details from Dan.)

Kris noted that Northern Virginia Conservation Trust is interested in handling one of our cleanup sites. Roger and Suzy said they can take care of the three sites in and around Mantua.

Suzy mentioned Phillip Parrish is interested in involvement in Fairfax City. (Action – Suzy will get more specific information.)

There was discussion of the need to use cleanup events as an opportunity to educate volunteers regarding watershed problems and bring them into the solution.

Watershed Forum/Summit/Event:

Karen is continuing to work on plans for an event that would target education of the communities and watershed groups in the area. This may be an ideal event for a 495 Express Lanes grant.

Outreach:

Kris will represent Lands & Waters at the Fairfax City Trails Day June 2nd, and can also represent FACC.

Olivier is hosting a "Let's Do It!" forum March 3 at GMU. Liz will write a piece about it for the Annandale Blog.

Olivier has an upcoming VOA interview. Liz & Philip may accompany.

Suzy reported the Woodson H.S. Environmental Club is planning different events for each day leading up to Earth Day. A rain barrel may not be possible because Lily Whitesell says many safety rules apply at schools. Kris mentioned Elaine Tholen of FCPS is working with Woodson.

Suzy is trying to schedule a rain barrel workshop this summer or fall in Mantua.

Olivier will be at the Woodson H.S. Service Fair Feb. 23. Kris will be there, too, representing Lands & Waters.

Roger suggested we should speak at the Board of Supervisors budget hearings in favor of increasing the percentage of tax revenue devoted to stormwater control, especially because stormwater is a more pressing issue than trash.

The Mantua presentation Feb. 27th will feature a talk by Danielle Wynne of DPWES on stormwater issues. Suzy & Robert will tape the presentation so that it may be used at any time.

Olivier will have a table at the April 28th Earth Day event at the Government Center.

Grants:

Karen noted the availability of 495 Express Lanes Community Grants offering sums of \$250 to \$5000 several times per year. Possible projects that could be supported by grants that were discussed included improvements at Americana Park, pervious paving at Lake Accotink Park, and the "watershed summit".

Tributary Naming/Restoration

Kris reported that Charles Smith of the Park Authority and Dan Schwartz of NVSWCD are working on a stream restoration of an unnamed tributary passing under 495 and into Wakefield Park. As a part of the project, community nominations for a name are being sought. NVSWCD is looking into this. FACC's role would be to help solicit names, and then choose the name, via a fair process.

Other discussion:

Olivier mentioned that in recent discussion, Pamela Gratton of the Division of Solid Waste Collection and Recycling said possible changes in the county incinerator contract could have impacts that might encourage illegal dumping.

Olivier's master's thesis gallery show will be at GMU April 2 – 6.

There was discussion of the need to find backup for Duane for stream monitoring. Liz and Brian are unable, at least this time. Dan Schwartz may have ideas. Philip is not certified, but could fill in as a last resort. Brian noted that Dan may be introducing volunteer chemical monitoring.