



Friends of Accotink Creek Leadership Town Meeting

April 15, 2013

Next Meeting: May 20, 2013 Audrey Moore Rec Center, Senior Center Lobby
(Third Monday of each month)

Present:

Kris Unger
Philip Latasa
Sandy Collins
Flint Webb
Suzanne Foster
Sue Shuman
Abby Sternberg, guest

Subjects Discussed –

• Motion to End all Motions:

Philip introduced a motion to dispense with the formality of motions and seconds, so often awkward and halting in small groups, and instead have the Primary Conservator adopt actions “Without Objection”, as seen on CSPAN. The motion was adopted “Without Objection”.

• Video:

Our guest, Abby Sternberg, discussed preparation for doing video of our cleanups on April 27th and May 4th. Suzy and Sue will be available on the 27th to assist Abby in finding good locations for action shots and interviews. On May 4th, Abby can join Liz as she conducts a demonstration stream monitoring session during the first cleanup and Sandy may be available to help later.

Abby welcomes contributions of video footage from others, especially HD. Sue will contact the Woodson H.S. television program about participation.

Reports:

• Grant Proposal –

501c3: Kris has sent in the forms to the IRS.

Lecture series: Suzy suggested we find persons who already have lectures and recruit them. The next meeting on this topic will be May or June.

Kris suggested a lecture on Wakefield Run post-restoration, combined with monitoring/walks/cleanup/replanting as the community initiative portion of the grant. This was met with general enthusiasm, but no specific action was decided.

Community Initiative: See above.

• Wakefield Run Restoration

Philip reported he and Liz had done the first pre-restoration biological monitoring of Wakefield Run, and it had received a score of 3 (on a scale of 1 – 12), in the “unacceptable” range.

Philip also reported Liz and he had met representatives of NVSWCD, Stormwater Planning Division, and the Park Authority to discuss plans for long-range monitoring to assess the effects of the restoration. Stormwater Planning will supplement our volunteer monitoring with professional fish population assessment. NVSWCD will supply chemical testing kits to supplement the usual biological monitoring. Stormwater Planning will see about involving a local high school – Jeb Stuart has expressed interest in such a project, but they are a bit distant. Philip will contact Karen Bushaw-Newton and Cindy Smith about possible interest and cooperation to perhaps make this a case study of some academic value.

• Planning for spring stream cleanup:

Dominion Power will have a cleanup along Wakefield Run April 18th. Philip & Liz will attend.

Philip mentioned that leadership volunteers are still needed for cleanup dates April 20th and May 4th.

Roger, Liz, and Sandy will staff the FACC table at the NVCC Green Festival April 20th. Philip will coordinate details with them. Bill may also be available that date for either the festival or cleanups. Suzy may be available in the afternoon.

Post-cleanup gathering:

Assistance is even more needed for the Post-Cleanup Thank You Gathering May 18th in the form of a refreshments committee, hosts, and the loan of laptops or other devices to display video.

Sandy will approach Trader Joes for a food donation. Maximum is \$30 and they require a letterhead with EIN. Bill will approach the Jet Blue group which volunteered April 13th for a donation.

Flint may be able to provide an overhead projector.

Kris will do half-hour stream walks at 3:30 and 4:30.

Suzy suggested we ask for RSVP's from Jet Blue & Dominion and also in a follow-up email to other volunteers.

[Note: The report of ongoing cleanups is [online](#).]

• BMP Monitoring:

Kris suggested a weekend event to get started. Suzy suggested DPWES as a source of direction. Bill wondered if a better focus might be on the impaired waters, rather than BMP's. Philip put forth the idea of "prophylactic" action to persuade developers to collaborate with Stormwater Planning to incorporate stormwater upgrades at the initial planning stage. Flint will contact Zoning & Planning about information on upcoming projects.

• Citizen Action Plan/Plastic Bag Bills

Flint said the Federation can best incorporate this idea into its annual legislative package if there are actual bills to support. Philip will contact Betsy Martin of Friends of Little Hunting Creek for suggested avenues of support.

• Stormwater Ordinance meetings:

Bill advised the final meeting is still pending. He noted that many civic associations are in for a surprise when the new regulations compel them to actively maintain stormwater management features which are now neglected.

• *Nottoway Park Moose Lodge Project:*

Philip reported he spoke at the Planning Commission meeting regarding this project and will submit written FACC comments. Vivian Mendez of Friends of Nottoway has been working with Supervisor Lynda Smith. Bill will look at this project and see if it cannot be upgraded with a donated "Thirsty Duck" device. Bill will also give FACC an engineering review of the project at an upcoming meeting.

• *Northern Virginia Community College Initiatives:*

The discussion suggested we could use input from Karen regarding how we may participate in the NVCC watershed workshop later this year. Kris thought FACC could participate with a presentation from our lecture series, perhaps on the topic of Wakefield Run. Kris suggested a theme of "Accotink Creek starts in your backyard", encouraging residents to look at their own local streams.

• *Pickett Road Tank Farm:*

Sue advised the EPA has contacted the Mantua Citizen's Association regarding plans to curtail monitoring of hydrocarbon contamination following serious leakage in the past. There was general puzzlement that EPA was not making this proposal more widely known. The consensus was Sue should ask the EPA to make their presentation at the May 29th association meeting, and keep the Providence supervisor, Rep. Connolly, and FACC informed.

Upcoming events:

- Friends of Lake Accotink Park Meeting, April 18st, 2013
- Green Festival, April 20, 2013, NVCC
- Potomac Watershed Cleanup, Saturdays, April 6th – May 4th, & May 18th Gathering
- Cardboard Boat Regatta, Lake Accotink Park, June 2nd