



Friends of Accotink Creek Leadership Town Meeting

May 20, 2013

Next Meeting: June 17, 2013 Audrey Moore Rec Center, Senior Center Lobby
(Third Monday of each month)

Present:

Kris Unger
Philip Latasa
Sandy Collins
Flint Webb
Sue Shuman
Roger Diedrich

Subjects Discussed –

Reports:

• Summary of Spring Stream Cleanup:

Philip reported 358 volunteers removed 315 bags of trash and 36 tires from Accotink Creek during the Potomac Watershed Cleanup. The most impressive item retrieved was a 4-cylinder engine block, an effort led by Flint. We also had an impressive string of financial windfalls in the form of cash bills found that added up to \$16. We also found a pocketbook full of valid credit cards half-buried in the stream, which Sandy turned in at a police station.

In addition, on April 18th, 36 volunteers from Dominion Power and the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay removed another 55 bags of trash from Wakefield Run, including where it passes under Americana Dr., a real dumping ground. Kris suggested we send the summary of the Dominion cleanup Day written by Liz to Dominion.

Toward the end of the season, we hit upon the strategy of asking volunteers to review our educational displays before signing in, which we can develop more next season. Our Post-cleanup Gathering attracted only a handful of attendees, so we need to find ways of making the next such event more effective. \$120 left from the \$150 Mantua Citizens' Association donation was delivered to Kris for deposit in the Lands & Waters account until such time as FACC has an account.

Anyone wishing to lead one or more cleanup days next season is welcome.

[Note: The report of the cleanup season is [online](#).]

• Grant Proposal –

501c3: Kris has sent in the forms to the IRS, but there is no word back. It may be that delays of several months are routine. Kris will check on the status.

Lecture series: Discussion deferred.

Community Initiative: Kris plans to move forward on a community engagement initiative centered on Wakefield Run

- Wakefield Run Restoration

Philip reported he met Karen Bushaw-Newton and Dr. Shelley Jaye of NVCC and they are interested in cooperating with the monitoring project. Karen made written suggestions for enhanced chemical monitoring which Philip is passing on to NVSWCD & DPWES. Philip & Liz will meet Karen & Shelley on May 23rd to walk Wakefield Run.

Shelley often takes her geology classes on fields trips along Accotink Creek and it would be worth accompanying one such trip for the wealth of information she has to share.

- BMP Monitoring:

No action.

- Citizen Action Plan/Plastic Bag Bills

Philip mentioned the possibility of cooperating with Betsy Martin of Friends of Little Hunting Creek on an lobbying effort for the next Virginia legislative session. Flint advised the Providence District Council will be hosting several state legislators May 21st. Roger will check into FACC joining Trash Free Virginia.

Philip drafted a cover letter FACC can send to county supervisors and state legislators promoting the Citizens Action Plan for Litter Prevention. There were suggestions for rewording it and Flint will take action.

- Stormwater Ordinance meetings:

Flint advised there is still no movement.

- Nottoway Park Moose Lodge Project:

Bill was not present to give his report.

- Northern Virginia Community College Initiatives:

Kris suggested FACC could present one of our grant lectures at the watershed workshop NVCC is organizing with an EPA grant.

Philip mentioned the NVCC Community Engagement Fair will happen in the same general time frame. He will check with Karen & Shelley for information.

Philip mentioned that Karen has submitted a Sustainability Zone plan to NVCC administration with numerous ideas for "greening" the Annandale campus.

- TMDL:

Philip noted that we have not received a response to our letter regarding the TMDL lawsuit and we need to ensure we are included in the new TMDL process required. Roger will discuss with Mark Thomas June 5th.

- Layton Hall:

Kris and Judy Fraser spoke at the recent Fairfax City hearing on this condominium redevelopment project impacting the Accotink Creek RPA. On the whole, there is hope the project will be a plus for the creek. There was discussion of how FACC might learn of such proposed projects earlier in the process. Flint will check on this.

• *I-66 Environmental Impact Statement:*

Roger advised the Tier 1 EIS has been adopted by the Commonwealth Transportation Board. A mixed road/rail project may be the final option. Roger mentioned there is talk of HOT lanes on I-66. This led to a discussion of the negative watershed impacts of lax standards employed on the 495 Express Lanes and other VDOT projects. Flint pointed out VDOT needs to model project effects on the entire downstream length of streams, not just the portion in the right of way. Roger suggested preparing a list of failings we noted on 495 to have ready for other VDOT projects.

• *Kent Richardson Eagle Project:*

Kent Richardson installed two boot brush stations in Lake Accotink Park which visitors may use to clean their feet to avoid spreading seeds of invasive species. His volunteers also cleared Oriental bittersweet vines from a native tree planting area at the Heming Ave. parking area. Kent will attend our June meeting.

• *Providence District Council Meetings:*

Providence District Council has scheduled a number of meetings with topics of interest to FACC. Flint noted one topic is stream restoration easements for stream restoration on individual private lots, Long Branch north being an example.

• *495 Express Lanes:*

Kris described a trek he and Philip made along the Accotink Creek portions of the 495 Express Lanes project to survey the state of erosion & sediment controls and revegetation. The Potomac Riverkeepers are interested in documenting any improvements that can be attributed to our earlier joint efforts to report erosion control violations on the project. Some erosion control failings are still evident, but not so many as before, largely due to the completion of earth moving.

There are many colonizing natives (and invasives). The natives may grow rather slowly, however. VDOT is planning landscaping with larger specimens, not all native, so they can show results more quickly.

Interestingly, a number of native grape vines are colonizing the sound walls along Americana Drive, leading to thoughts of establishing an urban vineyard there.

Upcoming events:

- Friends of Lake Accotink Park Meeting, June 20th, 2013
- Cardboard Boat Regatta, Lake Accotink Park, June 2nd
- Watershed Friendly Garden Tour, June 9th

Philip Latasa

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