



Friends of Accotink Creek Leadership Town Meeting

May 21, 2012

Next Meeting: June 18, 2012 location to be announced. (Third Monday of each month)

Present:

Kris Unger

Philip Latasa

Bill Nell

Suzy Foster

Olivier Giron

Roger Deidrich

Robert Greenberg

Bryan Campbell (Welcome Bryan!)

Karen Bushaw-Newton (Couldn't stay due to family emergency – Hope all is well.)

Guest – Betsy Martin of Friends of Little Hunting Creek

Subjects Discussed –

Friends of Little Hunting Creek

Betsy provided a description of the activities of Friends of Little Hunting Creek, primarily focused on stream cleanups each spring. Betsy provides the administration, while other volunteers run the cleanups.

After ten years of cleanups, Betsy is looking for strategies that will address the sources of the problem. This led her to create the Citizens' Action Plan for Litter Prevention with the Mount Vernon Council of Citizen's Associations.

There was consensus that FACC and FOLHC can collaborate toward the goal of promoting the Action Plan and bringing it to the attention of county and state elected officials, together with other watershed groups and civic association groups.

The Action Plan is attached and any comments are welcome before FACC proceeds.

FACC will also collaborate with FOLHC and others to put together a slide show presentation for elected officials.

Spring Cleanup

Suzy described the success of the spring cleanup.

Philip lamented that the cleanups still do not achieve the goal of fostering concern for watershed issues and pondered the possibility of doing only one hour of cleanup, preceded by one hour of education.

Bryan will prepare ideas for the education element. He suggested nature walks as a feature. This led into a discussion of liability and insurance: Scouts may be covered by their own insurance and all cleanup volunteers sign a liability release provided by the state Adopt-a-Stream program.

Illegal Dumping

Olivier reported on the cleanup he organized of an illegal dumpsite in the Popes Head Creek watershed. Bill shared photos of an art exhibit he created at the county Earth Day event using materials he collected from this site.

Olivier also let us know he had addressed the West Springfield Police District Citizens Advisory Committee and the district is making use of the Let's Do It VA dumpsite maps.

495 Express Lanes Landscaping

Philip reported on the Fairfax County Restoration Project meeting last week at which VDOT unveiled its landscaping plans for the 495 Express Lanes (formerly HOT lanes). There are concerns that the proposed species list includes several species which are non-native. The plan does not provide for any planting outside the sound walls. These issues may be further addressed at a leadership meeting of the FCRP.

Senator Dave Marsden expressed interest to Amy Gould about replicating the 495 photo survey Philip did a couple weeks ago, but here is no commitment yet.

At the FCRP meeting, it also came out that the 495 Express lanes community grants program is scheduled to end Dec 31st, so any group interested should act now.

<http://www.495expresslanes.com/grant-program>

Wakefield Tributary Naming

Suzy discussed the efforts to publicize the request for nominations to name the tributary scheduled for restoration. Information is on our website and has appeared in Fairfax Times.

http://www.accotink.org/Tributary_Naming.htm

Philip mentioned there are four other tributaries similar to this one, passing under 495 and joining Accotink Creek in Wakefield Park and impacted by the HOT lanes and how the contractor could have contributed to restoration of each at minimal cost.

Roger suggested the possibility of approaching Transurban with such a proposal. Bryan offered technical input. No action was decided on.

Ongoing Projects

Suzy described two recent pervious paving driveway projects, including Karen's.

Bryan pointed out the pervious paving display project at WSSI is available for both guided and self-guided tours.

Watershed Plan

Kris suggested FACC should select from among the projects in the county's Accotink Creek Watershed Plan and select a few to become closely involved in. A description of project the county plans for next year is attached for consideration and comment.

Olivier has not heard back from GMU engineering student Michael Schuler. There was discussion of how his group might become involved, perhaps by pursuing some of the non-structural Watershed Plan projects.

Other discussion

Philip was contacted by the IMA program about an Eagle Scout candidate interested in a project at Americana Park. It may be possible to combine invasives removal with repair of the nearby information kiosk at Woodlark Rd., and possibly other ideas we have discussed from time to time regarding Americana.

Bill Nell's neighborhood is converting from septic to sanitary sewer. Bill has proposed to the county that the drainfields be connected to rooftop runoff for a double benefit to the watershed at minimal cost. FACC will consider a resolution asking the county to seriously consider this opportunity.

Bill has ideas for a number of other projects, including upgrades to the AT&T property at 123 and 66.

Upcoming events

- [Daniels Run Nature Hike](#), June 2, 10:30am:
 - [Rt 1 Widening Public Meeting](#) June 5, 6:00 pm
 - [Stream Monitoring](#), June 9th, 2012,
 - [Watershed Friendly Garden Tour](#), June 10th, 2012,
 - [Building Green With Concrete Workshop](#), June 21
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