



Friends of Accotink Creek Leadership Town Meeting

June 18, 2012

Next Meeting: July 16, 2012 Senior Center Lobby, Audrey Moore Rec Center.  
(Third Monday of each month)

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**Present:**

Kris Unger  
Philip Latasa  
Bill Nell  
Suzy Foster  
Olivier Giron  
Roger Deidrich  
Robert Greenberg  
Ted Welch  
Talia Schmitt – Woodson H.S. Environmental Club

**Subjects Discussed –**

**Follow up on Action Items from previous meeting 21 May 2012:**

· Promote Friends of Little Hunting Creek Citizen Action Plan

Discussion was brief and reached no conclusion on our next step. To be continued.

· Actively Educate Volunteers about Watersheds through the Bi-Annual Cleanups

Philip mentioned the fall International Coastal Cleanup is in September, so must be registered and publicized in August, so must be planned in July.

· Select project from DPWES Accotink Watershed Plan for FACC to support/promote

Bill will search the watershed plan for projects FACC might support. Talia will check with Mantua Elementary School for information on the project on their school grounds (AC9546).

· Status of Fairfax Acres project to retrofit de-activated septic drainfields to storm water infiltration fields

Bill is proceeding with rain garden construction at his own house and will proceed to connect his downspouts to the unused septic drainfield. Hopes are that other neighbors will emulate.

**Reports on current projects:**

· Naming the Tributary

About 10 name submissions have been received. Talia will spread the word to EQAC (she's a student member) and to Woodson Environmental Club. Posters are up in Wakefield Park and Audrey Moore Rec Center. Kris will check on the status of the video. Additional outreach is needed as the July 15<sup>th</sup> deadline is approaching. (Please share the information in the attached flyer with anyone who may be interested.)

· FACC comments on 495 Express Lanes landscaping project.

The comments drafted by Philip were approved by vote. Kris will forward to VDOT under his signature.

· Eagle Scout project at Accotink Park

Josh Kirkham will do an invasive alien plant removal workday, or multiple workdays, at the Americana Park Invasives Management Area site. He may also include the repair of the nearby information kiosk at

Woodlark Dr. We are waiting now for Josh to write his proposal and obtain signatures from scout leaders. Josh is young for an Eagle candidate, 12 years old.

· Camelot Rain Garden project

Suzy reported that Liz recently had a “Meet in the Median” gathering of her neighbors to discuss the project.

· FLAP meeting report

Philip attended the FLAP meeting and conveyed the information on the 495 landscaping plans to them. Some individuals may comment, but not the group.

The comments made at the FLAP meeting by Park Authority board member Tony Vellucci apply to FACC as well, foremost among them to grow membership, as well as improved community outreach, create a newsletter, obtain grants, be heard at civic association and district council meetings, and improve web presence. FACC may be OK on the web portion, and we have shared our site with FLAP, although they’ve made little use of it.

Thoughts on growing membership included advertising for active members with civic associations, perhaps in conjunction with cleanup announcements and posting information at libraries and relevant businesses, such as Hudson Trail Outfitters. Philip again suggested closer collaboration and possible merger with FLAP. Things like a joint letter for membership and a joint newsletter might be first steps.

**New Discussion:**

· Promotion of an ongoing relationship with Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts

Ted is in touch with area Boy Scout leadership. Talia will look for some useful Girl Scout contacts.

· Duane Murphy will be leaving the area so his responsibilities need to be reassigned; stream monitoring at Lake Accotink Park; liaison to Trout Unlimited; website hosting payment; webmaster authority; reassignment of email alias [coordinator@accotink.org](mailto:coordinator@accotink.org)

Suzy suggested Bryan might be interested in maintaining relations with Trout Unlimited, as he is a fisherman. About \$1800 of FACC funds are held by TU, so we must either ensure they are not forgotten and comingled or make other arrangements. Philip has asked Dan Schwartz to keep an eye out for potential replacement stream monitors. Kris suggested FLAP members may be interested in monitoring.

· Bill Nell presentation on the definition and regulations of the RPA designation (Resource Protection Areas) in Fairfax County.

Bill provided an informative talk, complete with maps and diagrams on the limits on development in and near streams and wetlands.

· Other projects for consideration

Thalia invited FACC participation in Eakin Park cleanups planned by the Woodson Environmental Club for August, probably the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday. Suzy also suggested the club might wish to join the Eagle scout invasive removal project in Americana Park.

Bill suggested data on trash found in stormwater ponds would be useful for the county. Ted thought data collection along those lines, at stormwater ponds or streams would be a useful project for student groups. Discussion included mention of the painfully detailed statistics already required by the fall International Coastal Cleanup.

Ted suggested banks and real estate offices would be useful locations for displays of information on FACC and watershed issues.

**Reports on events:**

·[Daniels Run Nature Hike](#), June 2, 10:30am:

Kris reported the hike was successful, with a sighting of a large snapping turtle.

·[Rt 1 Widening Public Meeting](#) June 5, 6:00 pm

No one had a report on this meeting, but Suzy attended the related Southeast Fairfax County Development Corp [Trends in Green Development Meeting](#) and reported that a number of good ideas for redevelopment projects were put forward that FACC should keep in mind. Karen's planned environmental summit might be a venue to present these ideas.

·[Stream Monitoring](#), June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2012,

Philip reported turnout was disappointingly low, with just three participants.

·[Watershed Friendly Garden Tour](#), June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2012,

Karen let us know by email that she had about twenty visitors to see her new pervious gravel driveway.

**Upcoming events:**

[Building Green With Concrete Workshop](#), June 21

[Green Breakfast](#), July 14<sup>th</sup>

[Deadline for Name the Tributary](#), July 15<sup>th</sup> 2012

The Core group:

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**Friends of Accotink Creek**