



Friends of Accotink Creek Leadership Town Meeting

September 16, 2013

Next Meeting: October 21, 2013 Audrey Moore Rec Center, Clubroom 3
(Third Monday of each month)

Present:

Kris Unger
Philip Latasa
Flint Webb
Suzy Foster
Sandy Collins
Liz Kirchner
Heather Breiner
Naveen Adusumilli – Welcome Naveen!
Betsy Martin, Friends of Little Hunting Creek

Upcoming events:

- Friends of Lake Accotink Park Meeting, September 19, 2013
- Mantua Stormwater Ordinance Presentation, Sept 25th
- Wakefield Run Plant Rescues, Wednesdays in September
- [International Coastal Cleanup](#), weekends in Sept. & Oct.
- NVCC Watershed Workshop Oct 5th
- Planning Commission Stormwater Ordinance hearing, October 9th
- Stream Monitoring, Lake Accotink Park, March 8th, 2014

Subjects Discussed –

Reports:

• Citizen Plan/Plastic Bag Bills:

Betsy Martin of the Friends of Little Hunting Creek presented a resolution of the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens Associations promoting a five cent fee on disposable plastic bags, either at the commonwealth or local level. Flint noted Del. David Bulova's thought that an increase in the \$25 per year convenience store litter tax would be easier to achieve, but Betsy pointed out this would create no incentive to reduce litter.

Without objection, it was decided to endorse Betsy's proposal. Liz will write a cover letter for forwarding to legislators and supervisors in our watershed and other like-minded groups.

Betsy also mentioned Del. Adam Eban, who has introduced plastic bag bills in the past, will speak to the Environmental Committee of the MVCCA Oct. 21st and that we should plan to attend the January gathering of Northern Virginia legislators.

• Wakefield Run Restoration

Plant/Fish Rescue: Philip is proceeding with rescues Wednesdays in September. Construction is scheduled to begin September 26th. Hundreds of plants are stored at Liz's home and are being tagged. There was some discussion of cataloguing all the rescued plants.

Fairfax Master Naturalist Hike: The hike along Wakefield Run Sept. 7th had 19 participants, mostly Master Naturalists, who were tutored on the problems affecting Wakefield Run, the proposed project, the plant rescue, and monitoring of results. There is interest in follow-up walks during and after the project.

There was some discussion of a recent exchange of emails with an amateur botanist who happened to stroll by the hike and thus learned of the restoration project and is now asking for a delay. The consensus was to support the judgment of the Park Authority's naturalist Charles Smith who has promoted the project. This individual does have a great photo gallery of local native flora, at: <https://service.mail.com/dereferer/?target=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.flickr.com%2Fphotos%2Ffritzflohreynolds%2F&lang=en>

• Wakefield Park Stream Restorations:

At long last a second meeting on these projects took place Sept 14. Suzy and Sandy attended for FACC and were the only citizen representatives there. Providing equipment access while minimizing habitat disturbance was the main topic of the meeting. The work will be divided into two portions, restoration of the unnamed tributary running north of the power substation, and restoration of the unnamed tributary that crosses the Wakefield Park main entrance road. Suzy sent a follow-up letter to the project manager and stakeholders expressing some of FACC's concerns.

• International Coastal Cleanup:

Philip reported the first day of cleanups, Sept 7, had a low turnout of volunteers, but also a new collaborator, the proprietor of the Trailer Trash hauling service, who provided two trailers and disposed of the trash for us. Suzy noted the next cleanup date, is for sites near the Rebuild Warehouse. There was some discussion of how we might collaborate with them, but no action was decided.

New attendee Naveen Adusumilli discussed how his position as Water Economist with the Natural Resources Defense Council led him into a collaboration with Clean Virginia Waterways' study of balloons as litter.

• Grant Proposal –

501c3: No news from the IRS.

Lecture series: Continues to be a work in progress.

Community Initiative: Kris has made contact with the faculty advisor to the Green Atoms, the Annandale High School environmental club, and been enthusiastically received. Further planning will follow in early October, perhaps for a "follow the water" walk along Wakefield Run.

• Stormwater Ordinance Meetings:

Suzy reported Roger has set up a DPWES stormwater ordinance presentation for the Mantua Civic Association Sept. 25th – all are welcome. She may ask Abby to film the presentation.

Flint said the stormwater ordinance will go before the Planning Commission Environmental Committee 19 Sept and before the full commission Oct 9. There is some ongoing discussion at the Federation of Civic Associations on the merits and costs of county vs. civic association responsibility for maintaining stormwater facilities and how that will impact other demands for stormwater tax revenue.

• Northern Virginia Community College Initiatives:

Suzy is preparing presentations on incorporating BMP's in streetscapes and a discussion on how that was done in the Mosaic District in Merrifield. Kris has identified speakers for the closing session. Liz will be staffing our table and preparing videos and welcomes collaboration. Liz will ask if Karen can project our videos.

- TMDL:

Kris is working on sending out the letter inquiring as to the status.

- Braddock Civic Association Summit:

Braddock District will host a summit of civic associations Sept. 23rd. Flint will attend. There is also a Braddock Volunteer Fair October 10th. Heather will attend.

- Thirsty Duck:

Bill has offered FACC a unit of the stormwater facility enhancement device he represents, Thirsty Duck, with an eye toward use at the Layton Hall development. Kris is working on discussion with Judy Fraser.

A mention of the possible involvement of APOC* (as joked about at our August meeting) evolved into a discussion so free-ranging it led to the need for Kris to formally clarify that FACC disavows acts of terrorism.

*(Accotink Phalanx of Observant Citizens?)



- Americana Site Meeting:

The project to pave the CCT in Americana Park goes forward. On Sept. 4, the Stormwater Planning Division invited interested parties to discuss their planned mitigation of the increased impervious surface. Due to the number of utilities in the area and the high water table which prevents infiltration, the mitigation is limited to installing a meadow habitat in an area that is currently mowed.

- Flag Run Proposal:

Philip reported a longtime resident of the area near the Flag Run tributary is interested enough in its health that he has offered \$5000 in matching funds for restoration. The Accotink Creek Watershed Plan includes such a project, on the 10-year list, to the tune of \$1.3 million. But perhaps \$5000 could get the ball rolling sooner, especially as Charles Smith has remarked on the poor quality of the HOT Lanes outfall on Flag Run, much like the defective outfall which prompted the Wakefield Run project. Philip will contact Charles and also the Friends of Lake Accotink Park.

- Finding Common Ground:

The Fairfax County Restoration Project is hosting an invitation only gathering October 16th. Kris will provide a presentation on FACC. Core members of FACC are invited. RSVP by Oct 10th.

Philip Latasa

Friends of Accotink Creek