



Friends of Accotink Creek Leadership Town Meeting

October 21, 2013

Next Meeting: November 18, 2013 Audrey Moore Rec Center, Clubroom 3
(Third Monday of each month)

Present:

Kris Unger

Philip Latasa

Flint Webb

Suzy Foster

Heather Breiner

Bill Nell

Ted Welch

Nico Laget – Welcome Nico!

Upcoming events:

- Friends of Lake Accotink Park Meeting, October 24th, 2013
- [International Coastal Cleanup](#), October 26th
- Park Authority Natural Resources Plan Public Comment Meetings October 24th & 30th, 2013
- Election Day, November 5th, 2013
- Stream Monitoring, Lake Accotink Park, December 14th, 2013

Subjects Discussed –

Reports:

- *Northern Virginia Community College Initiatives:*

- *Watershed Workshop* – Suzy reported there had been a “fairly” good turnout. One highlight included the water table, demonstrating stream evolution, erosion, and delta formation. Presentations included Suzy on The Urban Environment & Watersheds, NVCC Runoff Initiatives, Earth Force Regional Educational Initiatives, Greg Noe of USGS on Septic Runoff in Difficult Run, and Liz on FACC Activities. There was also a display of native plants loaned by Cravens Nursery that Suzy had arranged.

- *Braddock Volunteer Service Fair:*

Flint reported the summit had dealt mostly with non-environmental civic association issues, with limited discussion of stream issues.

- *Braddock Civic Association Summit:*

Heather reported a good turnout, despite the rainy evening. She spoke to about thirty potential volunteers, mostly students seeking community service hours and some scouts needing projects.

- *Wakefield Run:*

Philip advised construction has begun. As of last Wednesday, they were building a road, but had not yet reached the stream. Philip will post our set of baseline photos online for reference by others.

There was discussion of a construction tour with Master Naturalists. Kris will work with NVSWCD.

- *International Coastal Cleanup:*

Philip reminded just one weekend remains. There have been 126 volunteers so far, so we may expect a final total of less than half of the spring total of 353. Temple Adat Reyim, URS Corporation, & the McLean H.S. Oceanography class have contributed groups of volunteers. We expect a group of about 20 next Saturday from GMU Delta Sigma Pi & Alpha Phi Omega. Several renditions of the [cleanup anthem](#) are on our YouTube site and we hope for more including from core members – musical talent not required.

Education & recruitment goals are still elusive, although forcing volunteers to read signage is having some effect, but needs improvement. Ted suggested the value of dumping and cataloging the contents of bags with volunteers post-cleanup.

- *Rotary Club:*

1. *Community Improvement Grant*

Ted informed us the Vienna rotary Club has about \$150,000 to give in \$1000 to \$2000 increments. These grants are often repeated to donors yearly. Perhaps this could be related to Liz's thought on a communications grant. Another idea is funding a supply of the Park Authority's invasive species playing cards @ \$3.00 per pack, although the Park Authority may still have a few on hand we could obtain gratis. Ted suggested future card series could include tree ID, Insect ID, etc. There is an October 30 deadline for the grants. Ted suggests a \$1000 request and will apply.

2. *Conservation Presentation*

Ted proposes an FACC introductory video to be available to show to churches, Rotary, Optimists, etc., of about 10 minute length, with some "zing" to it, something like the video shown at the NVCC Watershed Workshop, perhaps including more people in action. Kris suggested the possibility of PowerPoint as an alternative format or in combination with video. Flint suggested a presentation at a Green Breakfast. Nico can contribute musical skills. Kris & Ted will work with Liz.

- *Grant Proposal:*

1. *501c3 application and Bylaws:*

No news from the IRS.

2. *Lecture series:*

Kris circulated a list of proposed topics for discussion and winnowing down. Ted pointed out the importance of a presentation on permeable surfaces, i.e.: Don't just redo deteriorating driveways in concrete. Bill has expertise, but little time; but could do a presentation with sufficient advance notice. The Redi-Mix concrete Association might collaborate on a permeable paving demonstration. Suzy suggested presentations be made first to FACC for refinement. Flint emphasized the importance of stream ecology as a topic or element of each presentation.

Suzy suggested that the series should target subjects that are not currently available through the county. Strong topics were proposed to be:

- A. Ted's talk: Compost – Fairfax Hills Civic Association
- B. Liz's talk: Stream Monitoring – Camelot?
- C. Kris's talk: School projects – Annandale?
- D. Jeannette's talk: Native planting in backyards – Mantua?
- E. Bill's talk: Pervious Paving – Camelot?

Flint mentioned his wife is on the Cub Scout roundtable staff and needs projects, which could be a possible tie-in. Ted will talk to the roundtable.

Suzy wondered if part of the grant could be applied to purchase of a projector. Bill advised borrowing or renting at first. Nico has tech skills (and gear) he could apply. Flint suggested that better care will be taken of equipment if it is owned- this is especially important if we are 'renting' (or using) a personal projector.

3. Community Initiative:

Not discussed

• Thirsty Duck Device Donation:

Bill is offering a Thirsty Duck stormwater control device donation as a demonstration project. He mentioned Layton Hall as a proposed development that currently has no stormwater control, but will meet a relatively high standard upon completion, and could meet an even higher standard with the device. However, the engineers on the project hesitate to change anything for fear of delaying approval. Similar concerns are preventing installation on the Brookfield Pond project.

Suzy wondered whether the Mantua stormwater pond could be retrofitted.

Flint inquired if the device would be suitable for the proposed Grace Presbyterian Church parking expansion on Cedar Lane. Flint & Bill will discuss.

• Current Scout Projects:

All proposed projects seem to be pending, awaiting action by scouts. Suzy mentioned Rebuild Warehouse is offering \$200-300 grants that scouts might use.

<http://rebuildwarehouse.org/hughes-grant-application>

• Fairfax County and VDOT lawsuit against EPA Accotink Creek TMDL:

Kris has sent the FACC letter to the Chair of the Board of Supervisors, asking for information on the status of a replacement TMDL.

• Flag Run Proposal:

Philip walked Flag Run Oct 15th with Donald Pless & Justin Roberson, PA Naturalist. Even on this small stream, the challenge of erosion and invasive species is enormous, beyond the scope of the \$5000 Donald offered or Neighborhood Enhancement Partnership Program matching funds, but perhaps something will still be found. There are three Watershed Plan projects on Flag Run – a stream restoration and two culvert upgrades. It was learned that VDOT must do culvert projects, not the county.

• New Member Anthony Vellucci:

Philip advised Braddock District Park Authority Board member Tony Vellucci recently joined our listserv. Tony is a regular at FLAP meetings. Next meeting of FLAP, 24 October 2013

- *Americana Trail Paving:*

Philip reported crews are onsite, marking the path of destruction into which our tax dollars will be wasted.

- *236/CCT Connection:*

Philip reported the last connection of the pedestrian overpass on both sides of Little River Turnpike over 495 was completed a couple weeks ago, allowing travel from Annandale to the Cross County Trail in Americana Park. Sadly no one was interested in any ribbon cutting.

In the northwest quadrant, however, the connection is rough and eroding badly. It is in a jurisdictional no man's land – not Park Authority property, but VDOT says it's Dominion's while Dominion says it's VDOT's. No one in the county seems to be making it a priority.

Asad Rouhi of NVSWCD suggested a partial solution of reinforcing the embankment with surplus stone from Wakefield Run. Philip will follow up.

- *Federation Legislative Program:*

Flint described how the Federation of Civic Associations is preparing its current legislative program. The members will vote to select ten items. Flint asked if the group favored the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act or a litter initiative. The Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act was preferred as more important to the health of Accotink Creek as well as the Bay. Philip & Suzy will review the proposal and provide comments to Flint.

- *Stormwater Ordinance meetings:*

The proposed ordinance goes to the Planning Commission in October and the Board of Supervisors in December, to meet a statutory deadline for submission to DEQ in January.

- *Lake Accotink Park Projects (letter urging permeable paving)*

Philip mentioned we discussed this before but took no action. Braddock District Park Authority Board member Tony Vellucci forwarded information on funding approval for trails projects which will collectively add 53400 sq. ft. of pavement plus clearing without mitigation in our watershed. Philip observed much larger private projects proceed in the watershed, but are at least required to mitigate for paving. Kris & Philip will work on a letter.

- *Park Authority Natural Resources Plan*

Philip mentioned the Park Authority Natural Resources Plan comment meetings are Oct 24th & 30th. We should respond individually and as FACC by Nov 5th. Ted & Suzy will develop ideas for a letter. Perhaps suggest that the Park Authority meet the County requirements for mitigating their impacts.

- *Homeless Habitation in our watershed*

Philip noted recent encounters with homeless individuals in the woods, in particular the conversation with one person during our [Oct. 12th cleanup](#). Philip wondered if anyone had good ideas on what we could or should do for or about these persons. The difficulty of the situation

was generally recognized. Flint will provide the name of one county staff member who may have resources.

Philip Latasa

Friends of Accotink Creek