



Friends of Accotink Creek / Friends of Lake Accotink Park Town Meeting  
December 16, 2013

Next Meeting: January 20, 2014 Audrey Moore Rec Center, Clubroom 3  
(Third Monday of each month)

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**Present:**

Kris Unger  
Philip Latasa  
Flint Webb  
Suzy Foster  
Liz Kirchner  
Ted Welch  
Michael Reinemer – Welcome Michael!



***Eleven FLAP members joined us for this, the historic first joint meeting of Friends of Accotink Creek and Friends of Lake Accotink Park.***



***The smiling faces of the first joint FACC/FLAP meeting***

**Upcoming events:**

- [Christmas Bird Count](#), Accotink area, January 5, 2014
- Friends of Lake Accotink Park Meeting with board elections, January 13, 2014, (date tentative)

- Public meeting on the dam trail flyover Jan. 27, 2014, at Braddock Hall
- NVSWCD award to FACC, presentation & reception, January 28, 2014
- Stream Monitoring at Lake Accotink Park, March 8, 2014

## **FACC Subjects Discussed –**

### **Reports:**

- *FACC Elections:*

Liz Kirchner was elected to the position of Purser and Ted Welch was elected Member At-Large of the Board of Conservators. Both inspired the group with stirring victory remarks.

- *NVSWCD Cooperator of the Year Award to FACC:*

Suzy will confirm the date of a reception at her home following the Cooperator of the Year award presentation to FACC at the Northern Virginia Soil & Water Conservation District meeting January 28<sup>th</sup>. We will post the award online after the 28<sup>th</sup>.

- *Grant Proposal:*

1. Lecture series: Suzy outlined the initiative for a series of lectures to civic association meetings on topics such as composting, homeowner stormwater management, stream restoration, landscaping with native plants, etc.

Ted took the occasion to mention his thoughts for a video tracing the travels of thoughtlessly discarded trash down the storm drain and on towards the Bay. Mary Lipsey suggested relating the video to the Virginia Standards of Learning and getting county approval for classroom use. Jim Hickey offered his assistance with the project and suggested working with the Annandale H.S. newspaper and film program.

2. Community Initiative: Ted recapped his November meeting with the Annandale H.S. Green Atoms and interest in working further with them, probably in stream monitoring and general introduction to the outdoors.

Philip reminded all we had discussed doing a walk along the Wakefield Run stream restoration project in progress and we need to act now to do this before the work is finished. Discussion focused in on the dates of Jan. 18 or 25 in the afternoon. Kris will follow up with the Northern Virginia Soil & Water Conservation District.

- *Joint Meetings:*

Suzy's suggestion for quarterly joint meetings was well received.

## **FLAP Subjects Discussed –**

- *Donation Box:*

The much-awaited donation box was presented to the group. It is a commercial security mailbox, already modified in Ted's home workshop to serve its new purpose, equipped with signage, and ready for installation by the marina in the next few weeks. There was discussion on publicizing the box as spring approaches, with a press release and perhaps Channel 16 coverage.

- FLAP Elections:

The January meeting will feature elections for President, vice-President, Treasurer, and Secretary.

- Park News:

- The Dec 14<sup>th</sup> hayride with Santa was cancelled due to weather concerns.
- Ted noted the bathtub currently stuck atop the dam.
- Eagles have built a second nest beside the lake, and there was discussion of possible legal requirements for eagle nest protection.
- The [Christmas Bird Count](#) in the park is Jan. 5. Volunteers welcome!
- There will be a public meeting on the dam trail flyover Jan. 27 at Braddock Hall

### Joint FACC/FLAP Discussion –

- Lake Accotink Park Master Plan:

Tony Vellucci advised the Tri-District public meeting January 13 has been postponed, until perhaps early May and its format is in flux. The current master plan is on the Park Authority website, but it is only one page, dating from 1993. The Park Authority Strategic Plan and Natural Resources Management Plan are also online.

There was discussion of requesting a Park Authority presentation to FLAP on the master plan process.

There was discussion of some of the possible issues FACC & FLAP could advocate in the master plan, such as:

- Upgrade of facilities
- Move or modify parking at dam
- Invasives removal/prevention plan
- Defend natural resources over recreation
- Study dam removal?
- Stream restoration or protection projects

Philip provided copies of a draft FACC/FLAP letter regarding relationships between park projects and watershed issues. Discussion of the letter included:

- Issues of conventional vs. pervious pavement, such as runoff, temperature, etc.
- Mention of Portland's [depaving](#) initiative
- The possibility of the park as a watershed-friendly demonstration area
- The balance needed between preservation vs. increased demands for park revenue
- Cost avoidance value of preserving natural areas
- Kirk Kincannon former Lake Accotink Park manager is the incoming Park Authority Director, and may be a friendly ear for Accotink issues.

Jim will consider FLAP reaction to the draft letter idea.

*Philip Latasa*

**Friends of Accotink Creek**