



Friends of Accotink Creek Town Meeting

October 20, 2014

Next Meeting: November 17, 2014

Audrey Moore Rec Center, Clubroom 3
(Third Monday of each month)

Present:

Kris Unger
Philip Latasa
Ted Welch
Heather Breiner
Suzy Foster
Rick Rio
Sandy Collins
Hannah Wilkerson, Lake Accotink Park Marketing & Outreach
Maria Mendez, Virginia Eagle Distributing

Upcoming events:

- Virginia Eagle Stream Cleanup, November 15, 2014
- Next FACC meeting, November 17, 2014
- Next FLAP meeting, November 21, 2014
- Lake Accotink Park Stream Monitoring, December 13, 2014
- FACC Board elections, December 15, 2014

Action Items:

- *Philip & Ted – Wakefield stream monitoring*
- *Kris – Coordinate Virginia Eagle stream cleanup*
- *Kris & Ted – Arrange Anacostia trash trap visit*
- *Kris, Philip, & Suzy – Work on Merrifield historic marker*
- *Philip – Get mussel survey information*
- *Ted – Arrange Walnut Hill Farm visit*

FACC Subjects Discussed –

• *International Coastal Cleanup:*

Virginia Eagle Distributing

Kris has been planning a cleanup with Virginia Eagle for November 15th. Discussion concerned the venue, either behind Virginia Eagle's location (outside our watershed) or Lake Accotink Park. Sandy scouted the stream at the Virginia Eagle site and reported access could be had through the adjacent professional center. Maria indicated Virginia Eagle's interest was in the location with greatest positive impact. Kris noted Friends of Lake Accotink Park plans a number of maintenance projects the same day, which could be combined. Kris & Maria will work on arrangements.

Cleanup Summary

Philip reported the fall International Coastal Cleanup brought in 145 volunteers who collected 200 bags of trash. These totals are less than last fall, but still our second-highest fall cleanup totals. Items collected included a dishwasher, something that appeared to be an American Ninja Warrior "salmon

ladder” obstacle, an art collection, and an artifact from Noah’s Ark. Philip solicited suggestions on what to do with the art, as it seems a waste to discard it.



Artifact from Noah’s Ark?



Art collection found in creek

Adopt-A-Stream signs

Philip and Ted have put up the Adopt-a-Stream signs, except those two requiring VDOT permission and one under construction in Fairfax City.

- *Whole Foods Funds/Mastenbrook Grant:*

Philip is still waiting to hear estimates for a mussel survey. Philip asked if we had any accounting from Fairfax County Park Foundation on the funds they hold for us and Kris will check this point when we have the estimates.

- *Long Branch Central*

Kris noted that a result of the Aug. 30 Long Branch nature walk was an arrangement for him to soon lead a similar walk for Girl Scouts along Long Branch. Philip and Hannah remarked that the September 22 meeting showed Friends of Long Branch seems to be starting strong.

- *Represent FACC:*

Federation of Citizens Associations, Sept. 18

Kris indicated the presentation went well and received a good response and discussion.

Ravensworth Farm

Philip attended and raised the suggestions of incorporating stormwater control into landscaping changes, avoiding invasive plant species, and keeping trash out of storm drains. General Manager Don McIlvaine was receptive, but little inclined to expend funds. He does plan to use only native plants. Tony Vellucci intends to approach management on the same topics and has plans for a larger approach to all the adjacent industrial park occupants for participation in spring stream cleanups.

Providence District Council Oct. 21

Danielle Wynne of Stormwater Planning Division will speak on watershed projects. Suzy will attend.

Trash Summit Nov. 7

Kris proposed that he attend, funding the \$70 registration fee from Land grant funds. This was approved without objection. Ted queried what the direct benefit to FACC might be. While the answer was not clear, Philip noted that the Alice Ferguson Foundation sponsors this meeting yearly and attracts fairly high level attention from local jurisdictions.

Joint FACC/FLAP meeting

Philip asked about interest in another joint meeting and timing. Consensus was for a January meeting, separate from the regular FACC and FLAP meetings. Philip will address at this week’s FLAP meeting.

Anacostia trash trap visit

Kris indicated that, as part of her effort to get VDOT permission for our Adopt-A-Stream signs, Amy Gould had received indications VDOT would be willing to maintain trash traps. She is working on arranging a meeting of interested parties. Kris and Ted will cooperate on a visit to the Anacostia traps.

- Fairfax High School:

Kris described the FACC collaboration with the Lands & Waters stream monitoring projects for AP biology classes and offered that it would be worth staying connected. Kris, Ted, Liz, and Philip attended from FACC. Kris also mentioned how he and Liz worked on a grant proposal for more advanced monitoring gear for the school, but missed a filing deadline.

Philip diverged with an account of the 240 golf balls collected from the creek and donated to the Fairfax H.S. golf program, just a few of the thousands found in the stream near Army-Navy Country Club.

- Walnut Hill Farm

Philip proposed we act upon our previous discussion of a group visit to the farm and soon. Ted will work on arrangements. There was discussion of possible areas of cooperation.

- Grant Proposal

Philip related the proposal from Jeanette Stewart of Lands & Waters that we use some of our Land grant funds to hold workshops combining presentation with some form of hands-on activity. She herself could do a sustainable living workshop if we require a presenter. Jeanette's message is that we need to use these funds currently held for us by L&W. Philip observed L&W has much experience we could benefit from. Kris offered the thought that Walnut Hill Farm might be a venue for workshops. Ted suggested a target date would be in spring. While there was favorable opinion of the idea, no action was decided.

- Wakefield Run:

Philip advised he had purchased the previously authorized LaMotte chemical monitoring kit and presented the invoice for reimbursement of \$270.46, which was approved without objection. Ted & Philip will arrange to resume monitoring of Wakefield Run very soon.

Discussion somehow wandered to a description by Ted of the mystery of the Americana Park kiosk, which, if touched with fingertips in the proper spots, conveys a distinct vibrating sensation – caused perhaps by the overhead transmission lines, perhaps by the nearby Beltway, or perhaps by spooky unseen forces.



- Merrifield Park Historic Marker:

Kris is still awaiting a written proposal from historian Marion Dobbins on the project to place historic markers regarding the African American communities previously located in our watershed, beginning in Merrifield Park. The meeting of the Fairfax County African American Historic Society at which the idea was to have been discussed has been postponed.

- 501c3:

Suzy presented a letter from the IRS confirming that our non-profit status has at last been recognized. [APPLAUSE!] Our registration with the Virginia Corporation Commission will be reinstated upon mailing in our annual report and \$80 fee, which Suzy had ready to mail. Reimbursement to Suzy was authorized without objection. There was discussion of opening a bank account, now that we have the IRS letter, but no action was decided.

Philip noted the elections for Primary Conservator, Secondary Conservator, and Chronicler are coming up in December, so it is time for candidates to gear up their committees or for incumbents to recruit their replacements.

- FBI Headquarters:

Sandy confirmed the Springfield GSA warehouse site is still a candidate, but no other news has been heard.

- Vienna Stream Restoration:

Ted advised the project is still in early planning stages. He will check on availability of any plans or proposed public meetings.

- Outreach:

Hannah described her new position at Lake Accotink Park, where she is reaching out to volunteers to learn their interests and updating the visual look of the information kiosks. Kris suggested Hannah might be involved in a possible post-cleanup gathering at the park next spring. Philip asked Hannah for information about the watershed display on the boathouse and an unused kiosk located in Eakin Park.

This led to a generalized discussion of outreach to civic associations. Rick recommended 10 – 15 minute presentations to civic associations, pertinent to the interests of each group. He proposed the Braddock District Council as a venue. Suzy noted Kris’s recent Federation of Civic Associations presentation could be used. Rick offered to act as informal civic association liaison.

Philip Latasa

Friends of Accotink Creek
