



Bulletin of the Proceedings of the Friends of Accotink Creek

Our meeting notes serve as bulletins of our activities, interests, and discussions, supplemented by your submissions.

Friends of Accotink Creek Town Meeting – December 15, 2015

Next Meeting: January 19, 2016 (Third Tuesday of each month)

Audrey Moore Rec Center, Senior Center Lobby

[DONATE/SUPPORT](#)

Present:

Philip Latasa

Sandy Collins

Suzy Foster

Sue Kovach Schuman

Dave Lincoln

Beverley Rivera

Guest – Elaine Sevy, Springfield Arts Guild

Upcoming events:

- Long Branch Trail Paving meeting, January 12, 2016
- EQAC Annual Meeting, January 12, 2016
- Next FLAP meeting, January 21, 2016
- Lake Accotink Park Stream Monitoring, March 12, 2015

Action Items:

- *Everyone – Brainstorm grant application ideas*
- *Everyone – Submit 2015 volunteer hours in early January*
- *Sandy – Check on status of mussel survey report*
- *Sue & Kris – Write annual summary of FACC activities*
- *Kris – Solicit NVATU contribution to mussel survey*
- *Kris – Solicit support and publicly air 495 landscaping issue*
- *Kris – Compose letter on 495 landscaping*
- *Philip - Draft spring cleanup schedule*
- *Sue & Kris – Collect plastic bag bill information*
- *Sue – Coordinate event with Rep. Connolly*
- *Philip & Ted – prepare EQAC video*

FACC Subjects Discussed –

• Springfield Art Guild:

Elaine handed out the Springfield Art Guild's proposal for plein air workshops in the park and along Accotink Creek in general, sharing revenue with the park, FLAP and FACC. "Plein air" = Outdoor natural life painting. Outings would be free (at least initially) with donations encouraged. Flyers are being developed for the first outing in April, likely at Lake Accotink. Although it was too late for this first outing, it should be possible to list future events in Parktakes. Elaine hopes FACC will be a source of recommendations on scenic spots.

Discussion covered the requirements to be listed in Parktakes, the possibility of a community mural along the Cross County Trail at Little River Turnpike, a possible painting cruise on the lake, and bringing

plein air to schools. Art shows in the park are a possibility, perhaps as part of Springfield Days, perhaps at Audrey Moore.

Dave indicated interest in being involved in logistic support for this effort.

- Whole Foods Funds/Mastenbrook Grant:

Philip wondered what had become of the final report on our mussel survey. Sandy will inquire with Daguna Consulting.

- 495 Landscaping:

Philip noted we previously discussed breach of the landscaping contract. The VDOT landscaping architect attended last week's FCRP meeting and said she is not ready for a media approach, but will see how things go by year's end.

- Americana Meadow:

Suzy conveyed further plans for Americana Park would likely include clearing the expressway embankment of invasives and plantings there and in the area between the driveway and embankment. Using a contractor to control invasives along Accotink Parkway is also being considered.

- TMDL Meeting:

Philip described the stakeholders Technical Advisory Committee meeting December 14th. Presenters noted Accotink chloride levels are high year round, possibly as a result of groundwater infiltration, a point which will be studied further. As chloride data is limited for the lower Accotink and for Long Branch, the DEQ will be gathering additional data over the winter. This is the first chloride TMDL outside the Midwest.

The next public meeting is expected next fall and there are likely to be interim updates for the committee. The final TMDL should be finished by December 2016. Implementation will only come years after, when MS4 permits are up for renewal.

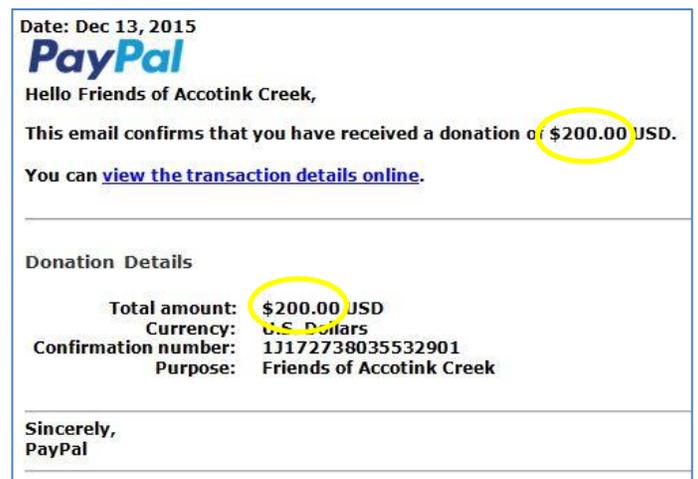
Philip noted he mentioned our mussel survey and how it confirms sediment as an issue for macroinvertebrates.

- Goodsearch/Goodshop:

Philip reported 59 persons signed up as supporters, but are evidently not using much, as the tally rises little. Separately, we have received a donation of \$200 via PayPal from a publicity-shy previous benefactor of FACC. Su will compose a thank you note to be signed by all conservators.

- Long Branch Falls Park:

Suzy recounted a meeting at the site with Friends of Long Branch Stream Valley and Stormwater Planning to discuss the proposed stream restoration. The project will also likely include invasives control and a deer fence to protect native plants. There seemed to be little community interest in paving a trail in the park. Suzy will get more information from Friends of Long Branch.



- Survey:

Suzy put forward the possibility of an online survey when there are particular issues, similar to what is being done by Friends of Long Branch Stream Valley. There was discussion of online survey options and possible costs.

- Accotink Gorge:

Beverley & Kris trekked through Accotink Gorge on December 3rd with Earth Sangha representatives. Beverley related Earth Sangha expressed favorable impressions of the native flora, their strong interest in making things happen, and their suggestion to seek financial and volunteer support from Costco. A discussion followed of the status of pending Park Authority approval for us to proceed and of the best method and time of year to control wisteria. Noting that some species respond with vigorous growth after being cut, Suzy cautioned “*Don’t make them mad!*”

Philip observed Fairfax County Restoration Project is organizing a meeting with the Park Authority and FACC in January to discuss the friends agreement that will support whatever efforts we can make in the gorge. It was mentioned at the FCRP meetings this month that Fairfax County is looking at ways to standardize agreements with friends groups for all types of county facilities.

- Plastic Bag Bill:

Sue is awaiting information from Sen. Petersen on when a plastic bag bill might be reintroduced. It will likely resemble last year’s bill, which applied a 5-cent cost to bags in locations in the Chesapeake Bay watershed, with a number of exceptions. Sue is preparing a letter of support.

Su mentioned the Barcroft area visited during the recent Daniels Run community watershed walk was a “bag city” and could be a possible cleanup site.

- Gerry Connolly:

Sue reported Rep. Connolly has agreed to join us and will let us know about one month ahead if it will be on April 9th or April 23rd. April 9th will be the kickoff of our spring cleanup season.

- Lake Royal:

Philip noted Lake Royal in the Pohick Creek watershed is to be drained and dredged in early 2016. There is a substantial freshwater mussel population. Rescue and relocation to suitable habitat lacking mussels, such as Brookfield Pond and Lake Accotink, would be good. Tony Vellucci has also suggested recently restored streams may offer the stability needed to support mussels. Dave mentioned his church is near Brookfield Pond and may be a source of volunteers.

- Community Grant:

Philip renewed the discussion of our community grant. We can apply for another for \$2,000 - \$4,000. We need to brainstorm on what would be the best use of funds to benefit FACC. Kris had previously suggested considering alternatives that could help FACC grow, e.g. maybe a fundraising initiative or a grant writing initiative.

- Volunteer Hours:

Sue reminded all to submit 2015 volunteer hours by early January, after which reporting should be quarterly.

- Environmental Quality Advisory Committee:

The January 12 EQAC annual meeting invites public comments in person or by video [by 5:00 PM January 5, 2016] (or in writing). There was a general discussion of Kris' earlier suggestion that we submit comments. Philip mentioned we could use existing PowerPoints and add narration. Discussion focused on using the Accotink Gorge PowerPoint with text from our gorge webpage. In absentia Ted was "voluntold" to provide the narrator's voice, working with Philip

- FACC Elections:



The last-minute entrance of three surprise candidates for Purser and Conservator-at-Large enlivened our elections and provoked general mirth. However, more established candidates prevailed.

By acclamation, Beverley was elected Purser and Sue was re-elected for a full term as Conservator-at-Large.
