



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 – January 16, 2018

Next Meeting: February 20, 2018 (Third Tuesday of each month)
Audrey Moore Rec Center, Senior Center Lobby

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Present:

Lisa Turcios
Philip Latasa
Dave Lincoln
Beverley Rivera
Kris Unger
Sandy Collins
Suzy Foster
Ted Welch
Elaine Sevy

Upcoming events

- Virginia Conservation Network Lobby Day, January 22, 2018
- Sustainable Schoolyards Workshop, January 26, 2018
- Lake Accotink Park Stream Monitoring, March 10, 2018
- 2018 Lobby Day, March 21, 2018

Action Items:

- Philip – Arrange Americana Northside project

FACC Subjects Discussed –

• Donation Check:

Suzy brought in a check from V-Dac vehicle donations, the proceeds of a vehicle donation made on behalf of FACC. Philip advised he will be adding a vehicle donation link to our [support page](#).



- Alban Maintenance Yard:

Suzy provided an update on the Alban Road maintenance yard. Plans are proceeding for meadow planting in fall 2018 after a series of invasive species treatments targeting mainly Bradford pears.

- Vernal Pools:

Kris brought up the topic of plans for an inventory of vernal pools in Fairfax County, coordinated by the Park Authority, but not limited to parks. Kris proposed that FACC host the independent biologist in charge, [Mike Hayslett](#), for an event. A professional fee in the neighborhood of \$200 was approved without objection. Dave suggested collaboration with Friends of Lake Accotink Park. Discussion focused on several pools located near the Lake Accotink dam parking area.

- Crook Branch Restoration:

Suzy inquired about interest in volunteer native plant rescue in connection with the planned Crook Branch stream restoration. Philip is open to discussions. Susy also suggested possible invasive plant removal projects outside the limit of development, perhaps with the long term support of the local Girl Scout troop.

- Represent FACC:

- General Assembly Delegation Hearing 1/6

Philip reported Julie spoke before the annual pre-session hearing of the Fairfax County General Assembly delegation, advocating support for bills controlling plastic bags. He mentioned that 350 Fairfax and Potomac Riverkeepers had also spoken.



- *EQAC Annual Public Hearing 1/10*
Dave described his [PowerPoint presentation](#) to the Environmental Quality Advisory Committee, focused on water bottle litter. Dave expressed some consternation at a question he received from the board suggesting a demand for sales of empty bottles. Lisa commented the same question had made her want to “get out her pitchfork”, while Philip noted the “pitchfork” in question may have merely been wielded by the board member being a devil’s advocate.
- *Lee District Open House 1/20*
The Lee District annual Open House will be on January 20, 2018 at the Franconia Governmental Center, Philip pointed out. Elaine will be there representing Springfield Art Guild, but will look for opportunities to advance the FACC cause.
- *VCN Lobby Day 1/22*
Lisa stated she plans to attend the Lobby Day in Richmond, representing FACC and making calls on her legislators, Delegate Kaye Kory and Senator Dave Marsden. Kris recalled Senator Marsden’s support on 495 Express Lanes issues. Discussion of past Lobby Days followed.
- *Mount Vernon District Town Meeting 2/3*
Both Dave and Elaine expressed their intention to “mill around” at the annual Mount Vernon District Town Meeting.
- *2018 Lobby Day 3/21*
Kris had no news on the Choose Clean Water Lobby Day on Capitol Hill, but still plans to attend.



- *Trash Action Work Force:*

Philip relayed the news that a Senate Finance Committee vote on [SB139](#) (sponsored by Senator Chap Petersen) scheduled for tomorrow had just been announced today. Philip and Lisa will carpool with 350 Fairfax to speak in favor of the bill. There was discussion of the practice of last-minute scheduling of such votes, giving advocates no time to plan. In addition to SB139, [HB981](#) (Delegate Debra Rodman [Richmond]), & [SB193](#) (Senator Mamie Locke [Hampton]) need our support.

- *Park Authority Friends Groups Task Force:*

Philip mentioned the final draft of the memorandum of understanding for friends groups is finally final and will be presented at a Park Authority public meeting January 26th. We have not heard anything more about the previously proposed one-on-one meetings with individual groups, but perhaps no news is good news.

- *Lake Accotink Park Master Plan:*

Philip let us know the meeting on January 22 will return to the subject of the future of the lake. The master plan website now has a lake study with considerable updating and analysis, including dam breach methods. The conclusion one might draw is that dam breach is favored. The breach options all contemplate creating an opening while leaving most of the dam in place.

- *M.O.M.S.:*

Philip wondered if we had any recent word from M.O.M.s after earlier interest in partnership on projects. Kris noted the cold weather likely has things on hold. There was discussion of possible

projects along Long Branch north close to the store. Lack of public access to Long Branch north is an impediment, but trash cleanup on park property at the lower end is possible.

- Fairfax Land Use Planning:

Kris described how he had indirectly been invited into the process to nominate areas for county review of land uses. Merrifield and the INOVA area are among the nominated locations. Kris will continue to monitor the process, but sees no concerns for FACC.

- 4104 Woodlark Drive:

Philip recapped the situation involving Resource Protection Area building exceptions granted to a grandfathered lot, which proved to be in conflict with deed setback covenants. This led to a situation where county staff is recommending approval of even greater intrusion into the RPA. Dave noted the same covenants include a Caucasians-only clause, indicating how outdated concepts need to give way to more important concerns.

- Sustainable Schoolyards Workshop:

Kris explained the next teacher workshop will be January 26th at Woodson High School in cooperation with Earth Sangha. Kris mentioned teachers at the previous workshop had appreciated learning about schoolyard sustainability failures. This prompted Ted to discourse on the value of viewing failure and success as a continuum. Dave quipped that in the Department of Defense, failure = "challenge".



- Watch the Green Grow:

Kris advised Kim Shauer, in her role with the Park Authority, has a deadline of this month for a school/community engagement grant proposal addressing park encroachment.

- FACC Board Vacancy:

Ted let us know he would like to free up his spot on our Board in anticipation of three joint replacements in the coming year, followed by recovery.

By acclamation, Dave Lincoln was named as Secondary Conservator for the remainder of the term, ending December 31, 2018.

- TSA Springfield Headquarters:

Sandy informed us the development of the area near Springfield Metro and associated extension of Frontier Drive through a Resource Protection Area has been on the Fairfax County Comprehensive Plan since 2008. Groundbreaking was scheduled for last September, so there seems to be some sort of delay. There was head-scratching discussion of why Frontier Drive is being extended right next to another recently built access road that is kept locked.

- EPA Funding Letter:

Philip inquired if there is any status update on the Virginia Conservation Network letter to the editor campaign. Kris will check on the information Sue provided on the EPA's role in the Pickett Road tank farm leak.

- Domain Renewal:

Without objection, the group approved reimbursement to Philip of \$13.96 for domain name renewal and \$119.40 for website hosting, total \$133.36.

- *Holiday Donations:*

Philip tallied up our online holiday donations of \$50.00, \$100.00, and \$25.00.

- *Crestwood Nature Partnership:*

Elaine talked about plans by the Lake Accotink Park staff naturalist and assistant manager for a program of nature activities for Crestwood Elementary students. A source of funding has yet to be identified. Dave commented that his church provides tutoring for Crestwood students and could be a possible source of support. There was discussion of possibly including other nearby schools.

- *Website Fiasco:*

Philip lamented that the county recently revamped its entire website, and in so doing, changed all of the webpage addresses. This means that all the links from our website to the county are now broken and will take years to correct.

- *Earth Fare:*

Philip reported Earth Fare has opened its first store in Virginia in our watershed. It is a grocery similar in concept to M.O.M.s or Whole Foods. Philip asked if someone would be interested in inquiring about funding possibilities. Dave and Elaine may check.

- *Plein Air:*

Elaine shared the latest Nature Journaling flyer that will be available at Lake Accotink Park. She also brought up the issue of Plein Air classes competing with Park Authority programs. Discussion of the issue followed, but led to no conclusions.

- *Salt Management Strategy:*

Dave explained that he and Kris would participate in the [Salt Management Strategy](#) meeting January 17th. The development of a salt management strategy results from the recent Accotink Creek [TMDL](#). Ted shared his anecdote of shoveling up the “salt speed bump” carelessly left on the Barkley Drive bridge by road treatment trucks.
