



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 – November 17 2020

Next Meeting: December 15, 2020 (Third Tuesday of each month)

SUPPORT/DONATE
It's easy & free!

Present:

Sandy Collins, Dave Lincoln, Flint Webb, Julie Chang, Philip Latasa. Avril Garland

Upcoming events

- Lake Accotink dredge Public Meeting December 10 , 2020
- Stream Monitoring Lake Accotink Park December 12, 2020
- Blake Lane Park School Site Meeting December 16, 2020



• [TMDL:](#)

Dave indicated the SaMS committee is meeting November 18th for review and final comments on the toolkit and summary documents. A public presentation will follow in December, which will be the final meeting of the SaMS committee. The strategy will be published in January, followed by a public comment period. Dave noted a number of local jurisdictions are acting now and trying to influence private contractors.

Flint asked for additional SaMS resources for the Fairfax County Federation of Civic Associations meeting on November 18th. Dave will send background information.

• [Americana Drive Cleanup:](#)

Philip advised we had a cleanup of Americana Drive November 11th, Veterans Day in cooperation with Fairfax County Restoration Project. It was raining steadily, but we had 15 volunteers turn out. DPWES provided a trash truck to go up and down the street collecting bags. As a consequence, we can't really say how many bags we collected.

To help address the chronic illegal parking and dumping here, Fairfax County Restoration Project is working with VDOT on a project to plant trees along the shoulder. For inexplicable reasons, VDOT cannot fund "No Dumping" signs, so FCRP is looking for a grant. Discussion pondered the effectiveness of the trees vs. enforcement tools like video cameras.

• [Mussel Rescue:](#)

The USGS Gauge went just over 2000 cubic feet per second November 12th, sending up the signal for a mussel rescue. After the water receded for a few days, we had a group of 14 volunteer rescuers last Sunday afternoon who were able to rescue a total of 18 mussels. Dave inquired about the status of the mussel population. Philip explained we don't really know if the population is steady or declining without another survey, but the presence of small mussels at least indicates reproduction is occurring.



- [Lake Accotink Park Master Plan:](#)

Sandy noted there is some movement on the Lake Accotink dredging issue. Stormwater Planning will meet with a few critical stakeholders next Friday, prior to holding a community update public meeting on December 10th. Philip recalled our concern with the last iteration of the plan was putting a pipeline through the woods from the lake to Braddock Road and then clearing five acres of trees for dewatering. We are hoping to hear some alternatives have been found.

- [Blake Lane Park:](#)

Fairfax County Public Schools will have a presentation December 16th on locating the proposed school at the Dunn Loring Administration Center, which was previously a school site anyway. Philip observed it looks like Blake Lane Park will be safe. Flint added additional affirmation came from the Providence District Council and Supervisor Palchik. Flint also noted the growth in student population is in this area, and the only objection is likely to be from current athletic field users.

- [Donations:](#)

Philip detailed some recent donations:

- What PayPal calls a “grant” of \$2.00 of uncertain origin.
- \$16.67, resulting from purchases made using AmazonSmile.
- A donation via PayPal of \$50.00 from Brian Wilson
- Donations totaling \$135 from Philip’s family members.
- Best of all, a check for \$355 from Vivian Morgan-Mendez of the Nottoway Park Volunteer Team.

Sandy thought the “grant” may have been hers, since AmazonSmile sometimes prompts with donation options. Philip recapped how using AmazonSmile is the same experience as Amazon, but 0.5% of purchases may be directed to FACC.

- [Annual Newsletter/ Donation Appeal Letter](#)

Beverley and Julie are working together, with input from Elaine. Philip reminded us Beverley needs photos and information about what everyone has been up to.

Julie indicated she and Beverley may combine the newsletter and the appeal letter. She recounted her recent experience directing a Go Fund Me appeal at a previous nonprofit. Julie observed the more personal the photos are, the better and that photos looking straight at the camera are effective when soliciting donations.

Discussion followed on what favorite moments might be included in the newsletter. Dave suggested the January Whither FACC meeting might be described as ‘strategizing the future of FACC in coordination with several sister organizations’.

- [Bamboo Initiative:](#)

Avril has organized a second meeting with Supervisor Alcorn on December 4th to keep the issue fresh in his mind. She has also contacted the Providence and Mount Vernon supervisors.

- [Long Branch Central Project:](#)

Sandy learned from Charles Smith that the Long Branch central project now has [a website](#) and [interactive map](#) where community input is sought on anything anyone wishes to have noted with regard to a particular location. Philip observed the map is not the iNaturalist initiative that was proposed before where Kim was getting involved. According to Charles, many ideas are circulating about collaborations with NVSWCD, Audubon, and FCPS Get to Green.

- *Flag Run Restoration:*

The [upper Flag Run restoration](#) is now complete. Philip reported it has a better look than some, with a degree of restraint on tree removal, minimal fish passage obstacles, and a number of amphibian habitat pools outside the channel. There were no fish present in this portion of Flag Run before, but Philip is trying to suggest to Stormwater Planning that fish could now be moved in, either from downstream or from the doomed population at Northfax West.

The lower Flag Run restoration from 495 to the lake, could start planning within a year, depending on budgets. Donald Pless suggested some ideas to Philip that are worth thinking about – protecting the existing vernal pool near the mouth of Flag Run, locating a detention pool just downstream of 495, and making restoration of the wetlands or vernal pools near the carousel part of the project.

- *Wakefield Park Restoration:*

Philip read in the [Annandale Blog](#) today that the Wakefield Park mainstem restoration is getting underway in the next few weeks. He was frustrated that the project had gotten this far without our knowledge. Dave mentioned he had recently seen signs in the park regarding trail closures for the project. Sand located information on the [project website](#).

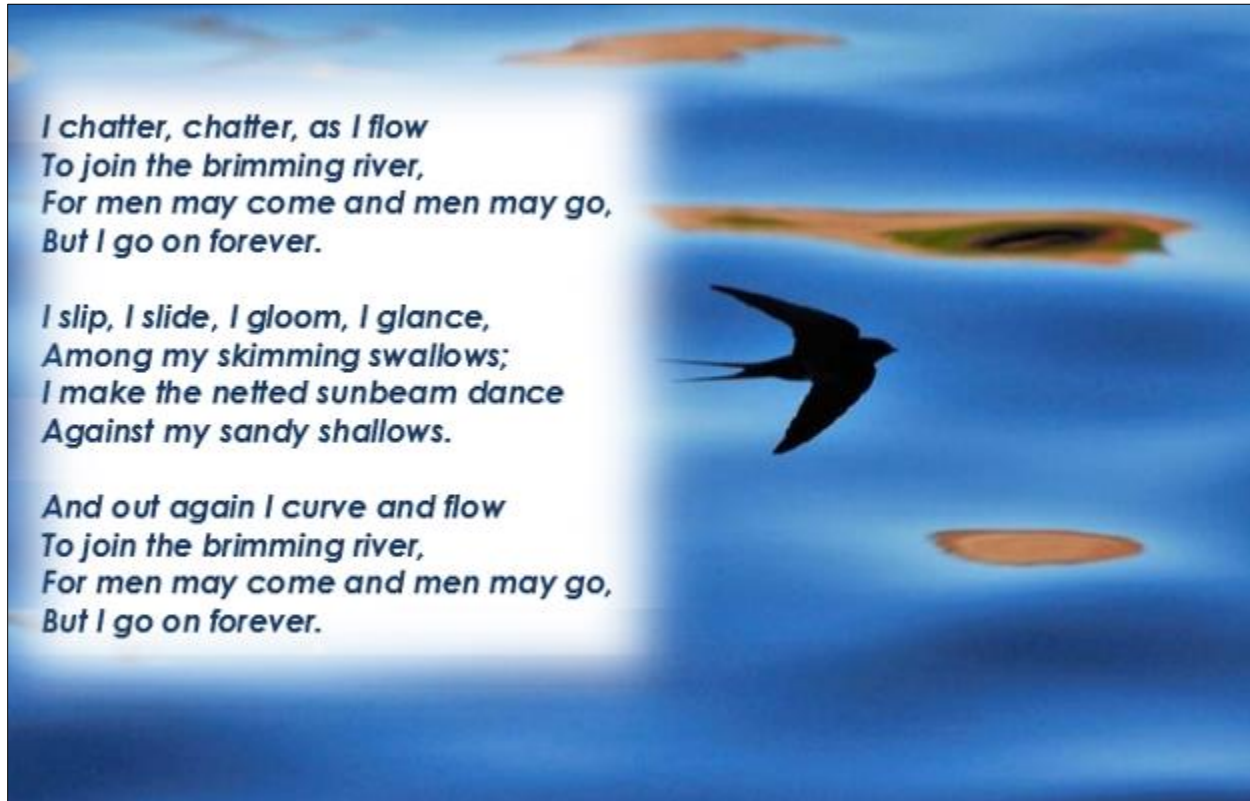
- *Oracle of the Accotink:*

On the 22nd of October, the Oracle of the Accotink delivered a late political forecast in the form of a softball found along the creek banks. Philip interpreted the message to be that Biden will do more “BAD”ly than expected, but is still on “fire”.



• *'The Brook'*:

Nothing to do with anything in particular, but Philip thought it was worth sharing this excerpt from a poem by Tennyson titled "The Brook".



From "*The Brook*" by Alfred Lord Tennyson

• [Whither FACC](#): :

○ *FACC Elections*

At our December 15th meeting, we will have three board positions up for election. Philip reminded us no officer may serve more than three consecutive full terms of two years.

- Sandy has served one term as Primary Conservator, so may be reelected.
- Dave has served one and one-half terms as Secondary Conservator, so may also be reelected.
- Philip has served three terms and most of a fourth as Chronicler, so no reelection.



Lacking any candidates whose arms can be twisted into standing for the Chronicler position, Philip suggested one solution would be for Dave and him to switch positions. There are a number of actual duties connected with being Chronicler, but any new person in the position could delegate them to Philip.
