



## 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 – March 19, 2024

Next Meeting: April 17 (Third Tuesday of each month via on-line meeting: Login info will be posted with the meeting notice in the [Friends of Accotink calendar](#).)

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**Present:** Gary Bangs, Avril Garland, Philip Latasa, Dave Lincoln, Sandy Collins, Kim Schauer, Brian Slawski, and Sue Kovach Shuman all via on-line meeting.

• *Represent FACC:*

- o [Federation of Friends Meeting, March 7, 2024](#): Gary said the virtual meeting had approx. 30 participants representing various “Friends” groups. The [meeting](#) covered the pending proposed budget and Equity study. Some notable highlights relative for FACC involved Gloria being hired as fulltime IMA employee and Brian will then assume the parttime position. The IMA program was funded at \$466,355. An additional \$400,000 plus one fulltime position was added to the budget to cover bamboo mitigation to comply with Fairfax County ordinance. There is a separate item for controlling water chestnuts funded at \$130,500.

The equity study is ongoing which is looking at addressing the lack of certain groups, in particular low income, from utilizing recreation classes, teams, and amenities like recreation centers. It would institute a sliding scale of fees, as opposed to one set fee for all. Total cost to implement would be around \$62 million, with \$7 million alone needed for technology upgrade to RECPAC registration system. They emphasized this would be phased in over a period of time if approved.

- o [Fairfax Circle Small Area Plan](#), Philip reported that another public meeting for the Fairfax Circle Small Area Plan is scheduled for March 21<sup>st</sup>. Again, we want Accotink Creek to be represented, since it borders the entire southern end of the area and opportunities are there for moving the pavement back from the creek banks. Looking for a volunteer to attend.
- o [Earth Day Events, April 27, 2024](#)
  - [Mount Vernon Environmental Expo](#), Dave said he is still planning to have a table. He said he would try to speak with Supervisor Storck about Costco and Gorge access.
  - [Fairfax City HisTree](#), Philip said there is no news, but we are still planning to have a table.

- [Eileen Garnett Civic Space Earth Day](#), This is in Annandale and the Greenway runs near there. As discussed last month, it would be good to be represented. Gary said he would look into it and consider it.
  - [Cinder Bed Road Bikeway](#): Philip stated that the group of the interested scheduled a meeting with Supervisor Lusk to discuss some current developments, but it was cancelled two days beforehand. Supervisor Lusk pleaded to wait until July, when the boundary dispute with the railroad should be resolved, so he could provide complete information. We will have to content ourselves for now with an email requesting answers and reminding how misguided the whole idea is. A similar email may go to Supervisor Storck, who has a small part of the Bikeway in his district.
  - [Vernal Pool Contamination](#): Philip said that we learned from Supervisor Lusk's office that the geotechnical report had been approved by Land Development Services and the pond may be 3 – 5 months away from construction starting. This was described as an “expedited review”, but after waiting five years and still predicting many more months of waiting, it is a real misuse of the word “expedited”.
  - [Accotink Gorge](#): Dave proposes moving forward with a drone package of one minute of edited video and 20 stills from video captures for \$225, covering an area about a mile length, varying in width from ~50 yards to ~100 yards. This will entail several man hours for setup, flight, editing with our input. Dave will followup with them on getting approvals.
    - [Costco Expansion](#) Dave also will followup with Costco on getting access through their parking lot.
  - [Conservation Legislation](#): Avril provided an update on legislation. The session has ended and bills are now pending action by the Governor. He has already vetoed the English ivy legislation. People still have time to contact the Governor to approve the invasive plant signage bill.
  - [AT&T Site](#): Philip said that the developer of the AT&T site in Oakton will be holding a series of public meetings in April. Our main objective with this development is to ensure preservation of the tiny tributary stream on the property. The developer indicated before that would be done, so we just need to make sure it happens.
- Virtual Meetings:
- April 3 at 7 pm
  - April 4 at 7 pm
  - April 5 at 12 pm
  - April 8 at 12 pm
- In-Person on April 18 at 7 pm at Oakton High School
- [Deer Control Transition](#): Avril indicated that the proposed transfer of animal control duties has been modified to keep deer control under the police. This seems to have been in response to public outcry. It still seems to be the intent of the police chief to move these duties to some other agency, and there is some fear that they will still be moved to the Animal Shelter when there is less public attention. The Park Authority is not interested. The Urban Forester has been suggested. In any case, our interest is seeing that effective deer control continues.
  - [Potomac Watershed Cleanup](#): Philip said that there was a location mixup in the cleanup schedule shared last time. Forgotten was our new location at Vaden Drive. There has been a slightly revised schedule posted on our cleanup webpage.

Our own cleanups begin May 4<sup>th</sup>, but there are others in our watershed before that. On April 6<sup>th</sup>, the Town of Vienna has its community cleanup and the Stonehurst community will clean Hunters Branch. On April 7<sup>th</sup> Girl Scouts will clean in Dunn Loring Park. Fairfax City will have its cleanup day on April 21<sup>st</sup>. It would be good to have FACC representation at these events.

- [\*Davertry Invasives Program\*](#): Dave said that the Daventry Homeowners Association, located along Hunter Village Drive in Springfield, initiated a volunteer invasive species control program on their 30+ acres of common property. The project kicked off with a presentation on the problems and solutions, led by Avril. Gary attended and helped during the first workday where 8 residents came and helped remove English ivy and other vines off some trees. Followup days are being scheduled.
- [\*Fairfax Invasive Removal Alliance\*](#): Philip said the Fairfax Invasive Removal Alliance is a newly-formed group aiming to encourage HOA's and civic associations to act against invasives. They do not yet have a website, but we hope to hear more from them in the future.
- [\*Vienna Herbicide Funding\*](#): Avril said that the city does not have funds for treating invasives and asked if FACC could help. After some discussion it seemed next spring may be better now to plan for. Additionally, Avril is looking to become qualified under VDAC for herbicide usage, but wondered if FACC would cover the expenses. Cost is anticipated to be less than \$100 and was approved for reimbursement.
- [\*Nature's Secrets Awaken\*](#): Philip said that Harris Murphy was the founder of Friends of Accotink Creek, though he now lives in West Texas. His wife, Karen Sizelove-Murphy, has written a book available on Amazon, [\*Nature's Secrets Awaken\*](#), where Friends of Accotink Creek is mentioned.
- [\*Donations\*](#): Philip said that we received \$1500 from our friends Vivian and Fernando of Friends of Nottoway Park.

Gary said that we have been offered \$500 for participating in the State of the Streams report. He will submit an invoice to receive payment.