



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 – August 20, 2024

Next Meeting: September 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, Brian Slawski, Beverley Rivera, Kim Schauer, Peter Clark, and Sandy Collins all via on-line meeting.

• Represent FACC:

- o *Springfield Bridge Walk:* On August 17th Philip and Gary attended and staffed a table at the Springfield Bridge Walk. This had been an annual community activity with Ft. Belvoir, American Legion, and Central Springfield groups to support American troops and commitment from Ft. Belvoir as a joint community member. It culminates with the signing of a covenant between community and Ft. Belvoir. This had occurred for 19 years before ending with the Pandemic, and now rejuvenated. Significant portions of lower Accotink Creek flow through Ft. Belvoir. Turnout was less than previously but still some citizens came by to get information on what could be done to assist Accotink watershed.



Combined Save Lake Accotink and FACC marchers

- o *Latino Conservation Week*: Beverley said she would be participating at Lake Accotink with the Park Authority for Latino Conservation Week which is September 14-22. She and her husband will host a workday on Saturday, September 22nd, 9 – 11 at her Lake Accotink Park IMA site. All are welcome. They are going to have a grill setup for food, and music playing hoping that they can get a good turnout.
- o *CareFirst Equity Week*: Philip said that CareFirst has rescheduled their workday for October 2nd, after postponing to avoid the hottest summer days. We expect about 50 participants, so volunteer wranglers are welcome to help lead the work, mostly removing invasives. 10:00 am to 1:00 PM at Daniel Run Elementary School in Fairfax City.
- o *Earth Sangha Open House, October 6, 2024*: Philip reported that FACC has been invited to Earth Sangha's Fall Open House Oct. 6th. Several expressed interest so we will schedule a table TBD who will staff at what times.
- [Cinder Bed Road Bikeway](#): Philip indicated that the Bridge Walk offered a stark contrast between our willingness to make one road safe for people for 30 minutes by closing it with police vs. our constant clearing and paving of trees for conversion to asphalt forever with dubious vision of any use which is Cinder Bed Bikeway.

Supervisor Lusk's office again postponed the meeting expected in July. Again, a lack of resolution of the property dispute with the railroad was cited as the reason. We suspect most other work on Bikeway planning is proceeding without any pause or consideration of our concerns as seen by removal of vegetation along Cinder Bed Road and ongoing work with utilities as well as other preparations.

- [Accotink Gorge](#): Philip stated that he ran into Peyton Smith, a member of Supervisor Storck's staff, at the Government Center recently and he said they had been meeting with Costco:

- They are talking to Costco, including having taken them on a walk in the Gorge.
- The Planning Commission hearing is not yet scheduled on Costco's proposed gas station.
- Some form of public access/parking to enter park property from Costco seems likely to result.
- Some financial contribution from Costco for invasives may be forthcoming.

Gary located the zoning case for [Costco's proposed gas station](#), including an [RPA study](#). However, these zoning cases are notoriously hard to understand. Gary also asked Peyton to include FACC as an invitee during upcoming community outreach meetings with South County Homeowners or others.

Philip also met the owner of [Green Steeze](#), an environmental landscaper at the Gorge, and should be getting estimates from her. She may be the one we need to work with, but at the same time she is hard-eyed about the possibility of us gaining financial support.

At the Bridge Walk, we were able to talk briefly with a few persons who may be of assistance with the Gorge project:

- Supervisor Lusk is interested in meeting to discuss the project.
- Colonel David Stewart, the incoming Fort Belvoir commander made no commitment to further steps, but was positive.
- Delegate Kathy Tran wants to tour the Gorge

Philip also learned VDOT has a [volunteer invasives control program](#) that may be useful in the portion of the Gorge that they own but hasn't had a chance to look into it further. Dave discussed a [Land Use Application form](#) VDOT has which he had looked into before.

- [International Coastal Cleanup](#): Philip stated that volunteer signups have started and we will have our first cleanups September 7th.

Also, Temple Olam Tikvah in Matua has requested our support for a stream cleanup at the temple on Sept. 29th. This would be Crook Branch in Mantua neighborhood.

- *IMA Site Leaders Needed*: Avril said there has been no new progress on getting new site leaders. Although IMA had an applicant for the coordinator position apparently that person was not hired, so it is still on hold for now.
- [Accotink Gravity Sewer](#): Philip stated that he has sent letters to Public Works, the Providence District supervisor's office, and the Park Authority. So far, there is no response. Avril said she would be meeting with Gloria to discuss possible plant rescues.
- *Donations*: Philip said that we had one donation, of \$31.11 from Benjamin Lebron, made on behalf of Charlie Heald-Webb, described as a young man celebrating his birthday, and who cares about the environment in his community.