



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.

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Friends of Accotink Creek Town Meeting – September 15, 2026

Next Meeting: October 20 (Third Tuesday of each month via

on-line meeting: Login info will be posted with the meeting notice in the [Friends of Accotink calendar](#).)

Present: Philip Latasa, Gary Bangs, Sandy Collins, Avril Garland, Peter Clark, Katy Johnson, and David Payne.



AGENDA

• Represent FACC:

- [Springfield Bridge Walk](#): On August 22, Philip, Gary, Avril, and Dave setup a table at the bridge walk. Avril went around to all the other exhibitors, talking about the Cinder Bed Road Bikeway and handing out flyers.

Philip said that he made a few new contacts who signed up for our listserv and showed interest in the Cinder Bed Road Bikeway.

- [VolunteerFest](#): On September 18, Philip will be tabling at this event held at the NOVA Community College in Annandale.
- *CareFirst Equity Week*: On September 23, Philip will be hosting CareFirst volunteers again at Daniels Run Elementary school.
 - *Daniels Run Peace Church Invasives Workday*. On September 12, Dave attended and reported a successful start by 18 volunteers on 3 acres of woods in great need of restoration. More workdays are expected to follow. The church and elementary school are adjacent.
 - *Federation of Friends*, This event will be October 13. Avril said she has a conflict and cannot attend. Philip said he may be able to cover it since it is at the government center. The main topic is likely to be the park bond referendum on the November ballot.
- [International Coastal Cleanup](#): Philip reported that our first cleanups of the season will take place this Saturday, and continue for the following three Saturdays. Information is on our website.
- [Cinder Bed Road Bikeway](#): Avril said that a group of Hunter Mill constituents held an online meeting with Supervisor Alcorn. He was sympathetic, but offered little in terms of action. He did mention that he himself had once stopped a trail project in his district, even after the contract had been let.

He proposed an alternate route that would use the existing railroad maintenance road and will talk to the Virginia Passenger Rail Authority about that possibility.

Philip said that we invited Supervisor Bierman, Transportation Committee Chairman, to visit the site with us. He did not attend, but On August 28th his senior aide went on a tour of the wetlands and existing alternate routes. She showed interest, but made no commitments. It turns out she lives in the area near the Bikeway.

On August 25th, Philip spoke before the Board of Supervisors on the topic of the Tree Commission. He took advantage of the topic to urge saving trees and funds by foregoing the Cinder Bed Road Bikeway. Chairman McKay responded with comments lamenting how the Bikeway was an illustration of how siloed planning was leading to a poor outcome. [video clip, Supervisor McKay](#)

On September 25th, the group of the interested will be meeting with FCDOT project managers for an update and our continued pleas to change course.

- [Accotink Gravity Sewer](#): *Philip/Avril (5 min)*
Philip said that there's really no change from last month. The project manager is not being forthcoming with information, but it is possible they will get things in order in time to begin construction this winter.
- [Braddock Road Widening](#): Philip said that the project has posted permitting documents for comment, which seems to have stirred interest among the neighbors, so we better take advantage and contribute comments of our own. Our main hope at this point is that the project will forgo building a second shared use path on the south side. Board members present had no issues with the drafted comments.

- [Foam Food Container Ban](#): Philip said Fairfax County has clarified that the Health Department is in charge of enforcement. However, citizens wishing to file a complaint will have to guess that they need to use the food safety reporting system.

- *Mussel Survey*: Philip said that the Stormwater Planning Division contracted with the [Virginia Tech Freshwater Mollusk Conservation Center](#) this summer to survey mussels in Accotink Creek. Three locations have been selected above Lake Accotink and 3 below, plus 1 site each on the lower portion of both the Long Branch central and Long Branch south tributaries. The survey is underway and may continue into October. A final report should be released by May 2027.

Hopefully this will build off of the [2015 mussel survey](#) we commissioned ourselves and participated in, but it seems thus far no one is interested in our input. A couple of questions we have is how the population currently appears, and if mussels continue to only be found in that one section of the creek, why?

- [Nottoway Park Education Project](#): Avril said that there is nothing new to report about the Nottoway educational project. Vivian is still waiting for FCPA guidelines to further develop the signage and other aspects. She will start clearing more invasives this week with Operation Stream Shield.

Kim suggested she speak with stormwater management division because they have put together extensive educational materials to be used throughout the schools utilizing money that comes from the line item within the property tax bills.

- *Fall Invasives Workdays*:

- *PRISM Extravaganza*

- *Annandale Park*

Annandale Park has two upcoming invasives control workdays, September 26th as Part of Public Lands Day and October 18th by Friends of Holmes Run. Avril said that she may be able to take part.

- *Accotink Gorge*

Avril said she would contact the schools and see about scheduling some fall days to address the wisteria.

- *IMA 20th Anniversary*

The IMA 20th Anniversary event will be October 11th, 10:00 – noon, at Lake Accotink Park, combining invasives work with a potluck lunch. All IMA site leaders and tree rescuers are welcome. The invasives work will focus on cleaning up a tree planting area at the upper field.

- [Kris Unger Memorial](#): Philip said the vernal pool plan is in the hands of the City. Katy said she would followup on what is happening with it.