



Friends of Accotink Creek / Friends of Lake Accotink Park Town Meeting
January 20, 2013

Next Meeting: February 17, 2014 Audrey Moore Rec Center, Clubroom 3
(Third Monday of each month)

Present:

Kris Unger
Philip Latasa
Suzy Foster
Liz Kirchner
Sandy Collins
Brian Parr
Ted Welch

Upcoming events:

- Lee District Open House, January 25, 2014
- Public meeting on the dam trail flyover Jan. 27, 2014, at Braddock Hall
- NVSWCD award to FACC presentation, January 28, 2014
- Mount Vernon District Town Meeting, February 1, 2014
- Braddock Road widening meeting, February 19, 2014
- Friends of Lake Accotink Park meeting, February 27, 2014
- Stream Monitoring at Lake Accotink Park, March 8, 2014
- Vienna Green Expo, April 24, 2014

FACC Subjects Discussed –

• Cooperator of the Year:

1. *January 28th Presentation:*

The presentation is at the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District board meeting **9:30 am** January 28, in the Herrity building. Kris, Suzy, Philip, and Liz will receive the award for FACC. All are welcome to attend.

2. *Reception:*

On further reflection, the consensus was to have a gathering at a later time when we can meet at a venue within the watershed – Lost Dog was mentioned as an option. Suzy will follow up with Liz, Amy Gould and Laura Grape.

• Wakefield Run:

Philip advised project completion may be within the next two weeks, but the replanting schedule is now unclear. The rescued plants need to be replanted soon, as their current cramped pots are only suitable during dormancy. Philip has requested guidance from NVSWCD.

• Potomac Watershed Cleanup:

Philip circulated a proposed cleanup schedule which met with no objection. It may need modification when we have a schedule for the NVCC Green Festival. It was noted the Park Authority plans to remove the rowboats from the lake, and Ted will contact park management (FLAP president, Tony Vellucci) about availability of watercraft for his planned invention of a trash skimmer.

• Grant Proposal:

1. *501c3 application and Bylaws:*

Nothing from the IRS yet, but we did receive an annual \$25 bill from the Commonwealth for corporation registration. Kris will pay from grant funds.

2. *Lecture series:*

Suzy circulated a list of topics and presenters. Ted will do a test-of-concept presentation on composting at the February FACC meeting. Descriptive blurbs and credentials of presenters are needed. The list of presenters will be paired down based on input.

- Home Composting: Ted Welch - Worm bin and backyard composting
- Stream Monitoring: Liz Kirchner - Learn what lives in our streams, and citizen science.
- Native Plant Landscaping: Jeanette Stewart - How native plants can provide beautiful habitat.
- Scout/Guide Projects - Opportunities to participate in watershed projects
- RPA issues: Bill Nell - Learn about Riparian Protected Areas and how to coexist with streams.
- Watershed Activities: Danielle Wynne - Backyard stormwater management
- School Greenings: Sharing Nature with Youth – Kris Unger - Experiences in nature for youth.

3. *Community Initiative:*

Kris is talking to NVSWCD about a Wakefield Run walk during construction. Discussion focused on the date of February 1. Master naturalists, Green Atoms, and plant rescuers are possible invitees. We can publicize in the Annandale Blog. Brian mentioned he had discussed with Asad Rouhi, NVSWCD engineer the possibility of his participation as an expert guide. Kris will follow up.

Brian also mentioned discussing with Asad the need for an explanatory display at the site to edify passersby. Philip suggested this could be as simple as a framed poster attached to the bridge on the Cross County Trail. The already-existing preconstruction poster may be suitable.

Possibilities for publicizing the progress on the project through more prominent posting of the progress photos on the web page and Facebook was discussed. Ted recommended that a simple gimmick like taking weekly photos from a fixed spot would make for an interesting/educational story, both through construction, revegetation, and seasons.

• *Americana Trail Paving:*

Philip noted the Americana Park Cross County Trail paving project became flooded during its first week, halting construction, and has remained a swamp or skating rink ever since. The thought that “heads should roll” came up in the discussion. Discussion included documenting the problems with photos and text and sending a field report to the Park Authority for their consideration relative to future projects and expenditures.

• *Citizens Action Plan/Baq Bill:*

Senator Adam Ebbin has introduced SB 320, due for committee consideration Jan. 21st. Liz will send a letter in the name of FACC, based on the example provided by Betsy Martin of Friends of Little Hunting Creek. Individual support letters to district legislators are also appropriate.

• *Lake Accotink Park Projects:*

Philip advised the Danbury Forest entry trail paving project failed to gain an easement from the civic association, perhaps related to their disappointment at the Park Authority inability to solve adjacent drainage issues.

• *Northern Virginia Soil & Water Grant:*

Kris informed us that NVSWCD is seeking a National Fish & Wildlife Foundation grant for stream restoration projects, including along Flag Run and on the Danbury Forest civic association property. FACC may be able to participate in these projects along the lines of Wakefield Run. Ted suggested joint FACC/FLAP participation in these projects in or very near Lake Accotink Park, and also noted the lessons of Wakefield Run better prepare us for future projects. Philip suggested Stormwater Planning Division might be able to supplement the grant to complete the full restoration of Flag Run as listed in the

Accotink Creek Watershed Plan. Kris will be assisting in writing the grant application and will provide a letter of support from FACC.

- Lake Accotink Park Master Plan:

Philip remarked on the need to have positions prepared for the revision of the Lake Accotink Park master plan later this spring. This led into discussion of the Northern Virginia Regional Commission's plan to study dredge spoils disposal and past disposal sites for Lake Accotink dredging. Philip will prepare FACC requests based on points outlined in our December meeting.

- Vienna Stream Restoration:

Philip noted Vienna is planning a stream restoration along Hunters Branch adjacent to Nottoway Park. Ted knows the Mayor of Vienna and will discuss a possible FACC role.

- FCRP Film Festival:

Suzy described plans by Amy Gould and the Fairfax County Restoration Project for an environmental film festival around Earth Day. Amy has discussed rental of the Cinema Arts Theater (Note: This is in our watershed.) for about \$400 per night and is lining up sponsors. Amy welcomes assistance and needs leaders for discussions following screenings.

Suzy noted that Karen Bushaw-Newton is also planning an environmental film festival at NVCC about the same time. There was discussion of conflict/coordination/merger between the two film festivals and with the NVCC Green Festival.

Suzy noted the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax has monthly environmental film showings and there may be interest in the three entities coordinating their films. Suzy and Liz will attempt to meet with Amy, Karen and a UUCF representative to support the film festival.

- Represent FACC:

Philip inquired if there was interest in anyone representing FACC at the following events -

Lee District Open House Jan 25 – Sandy will attend, schedule permitting

Mount Vernon's 27th Annual Town Meeting Feb 1 – no takers

Braddock Road widening meeting Feb 19 7:30 – Kris will discuss with Cheryl McDonald

of the Braddock Land Use Committee

Vienna Green Expo April 24th – Ted will staff a FACC table

NOVA Green Festival April??? – still uncertain; Suzy will talk to Karen

- Oakton H.S. 5K:

There was broad discussion of how FACC might support this event and fend off the horror of seeing disposable water bottles passed out. Discussion included cost and logistical issues with providing reusable bottles, possible alternate logo items, possible cost sharing with other sponsors, and possibly providing native plants to the outdoor classroom that the run is raising funds for. Suzy will follow up.

- Webpage Update:

Philip reminded board members to provide bios/blurbs/quotes for the updated FACC "About" webpage, now in beta at <http://www.accotink.org/AboutFACCtest.htm>. Viewing of the "action photos" now on the page provoked inexplicable outbursts of amusement.

This led to a much broader discussion of possible improvements to our website layout and the pluses and minuses of changes. Philip will put up a test homepage with a blue background.

Philip Latasa

Friends of Accotink Creek