



Friends of Accotink Creek / Friends of Lake Accotink Park Town Meeting
March 17, 2014

Next Meeting: April 21, 2014 Audrey Moore Rec Center, Clubroom 3
(Third Monday of each month)

Present:

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

Upcoming events:

- Nottoway Park rescued plants replanting, April 2, 2014, 10:00
- Potomac Watershed Cleanup, April 5 – May 3, 2014
- Next FACC meeting, April 17, 2014
- FCRP Film Festival, April 20 – 24, 2014
- NOVA Green Festival, April 22, 2014
- Vienna Green Expo, April 24, 2014
- Wakefield Run Walk, April 27, 2014
- Beautification Day Wakefield Park, May 3, 2014

Action Items:

- *Suzy will register our cleanup schedule with Clean Streams*
- *Sandy will prepare some wording to the FCPA such that Lake Accotink Park master plan revisions should adhere to the goals of the recently completed Park Authority Natural Resource Plan.*
- *Kris will write a description for the Lecture Series for Flint to put in the Federation newsletter.*
- *Kris is working with NVSWCD on the Wakefield Run walk.*
- *Everyone is to bring grant ideas to the next meeting*
- *Brian will contact M.O.R.E. on Wakefield Run trail issues*
- *FACC board members will submit blurbs for our "About" page*
- *Liz will contact Friends of Hidden Oaks Nature Center on budget*
- *Philip will add budget letter template to website*
- *Philip will revise the homepage photo section.*
- *NOVA Green Festival:*
 - *Liz will prepare a video/talk focused on monitoring.*
 - *Kris will do a PowerPoint presentation focused on vernal pools.*
 - *Philip will prepare a photo show for digital picture frame display.*
 - *Ted will explore the possibility of a live display of stream invertebrates.*

FACC Subjects Discussed –

• Cooperator of the Year:

Reception: Kris reported the happy hour/reception at Lost Dog Cafe went well, and we came close to break even on the pizza purchase. It may be worth repeating similar events, perhaps at the same venue. Five members of the Northern Virginia Soil & Water Conservation District attended. Discussion with them included the offer by NVSWCD to assist FACC with grant applications and hold funds for us pending our 501c3 status.

This led to discussion of grant possibilities in general, to be continued at our April meeting, when everyone should bring grant ideas.

• Wakefield Run:

Philip reported construction is finished. Suzy and Liz mentioned replanting has started with live stakes. Philip mentioned there are some issues with the construction road, which already has deep ruts since being seeded. Suzy observed the new open character of the stream may lead to trampling by foot traffic on the banks. There are similar issues with the mountain bike trails which already have, or are likely to develop rutted areas in the seeded zone. Philip has communicated with NVSWCD on these issues, but has received no response.

This led to discussion of working with the mountain bike association, M.O.R.E., on solutions. Despite the difficulty of finding common interests, Brian will contact them.

Philip reported the rescued plants all seem to be spoken for, some having gone to Invasive Management Area sites in our watershed at Borge Street Park and Rutherford Park, and the remainder to be taken to Nottoway Park for a replanting event April 2 at 10:00am.

• Potomac Watershed Cleanup:

Philip reported two Virginia Delegates, Marcus Simon and David Bulova, have signed on to volunteer at cleanups. The Metropolitan Community Church will join the Chain Bridge Road cleanup and is interested in adopting that site. Two company groups, CGI Federal and LMI Inc., have signed up. The Junk Guy is interested in helping with illegal dump sites and will meet Philip at the "Bumper Dumper" site next week.

Suzy is working on registering our cleanup schedule with Project Clean Stream, which helped arrange the Wakefield Run cleanup last spring.

This led to some discussion of the Adopt-A-Highway program as a community outreach tool. Suzy noted the DPWES Mantua Elementary School stormwater project will include community outreach opportunities.

• Grant Proposal:

1. Lecture series:

Suzy has had some nibbles from the Mantua Civic Association board, but no bites. We need to circulate this more widely.

2. Community Initiative:

Kris will work on organizing the Wakefield Run walk for April 27th at 10:00 am

• NOVA Green Festival:

Liz explained this event is all day Tuesday, April 22, and will feature a smart, well-composed lineup of nationally known speakers. There will be focused components, such as soil, botanicals, water, etc. FACC will be the water component and has one hour to fill, as well as manning a table.

- Liz will prepare a video/talk focused on monitoring.
- Kris will do a PowerPoint presentation focused on vernal pools.
- Sue will staff the FACC table.
- Philip will prepare a photo show for digital picture frame display.
- Ted will explore the possibility of a live display of stream invertebrates.

Additional ideas and table staff volunteers are welcome!

• Green Atoms/Scouts:

Ted reported we had a good turnout of Annandale H.S. Green Atoms and their faculty advisor for the March 8th stream monitoring, including the Eagle Scout who just replaced an information kiosk in Wakefield Park. His report will be on our website in a few days.

Another scout project in the works is rerouting of the eroded trail at Lake Accotink Park HQ. Ted and Philip recently walked the site with the scout and Ed Richardson, Park authority Area 4 Manager. Park Authority approval is in hand and the project is proceeding.

• Lake Accotink Park Master Plan:

Suzy had a chance meeting with a Park Authority planner. She learned that extensive citizen input to the master plan revision is welcome and our idea of relocating the dam parking lot is a definite possibility.

• FCRP Film Festival:

Amy is still seeking sponsors and there was discussion of a number of possible sources Suzy will share with Amy.

• Represent FACC:

Braddock Road widening meeting Feb 19

Philip reported Supervisor Cook described a process of maximum citizen involvement, with a community steering committee and a series of public meetings over 18 months, followed by a 7 year completion period. The project envisions widening Braddock Road from 4 lanes to 6 from Guinea Road to Burke Lake Road, and then from 6 lanes to 8 to 495.

There was discussion of the need and opportunity for enhanced stormwater controls as part of the project and the possibility of seeking a grant to further that goal.

IMA Appreciation March 8th

Damian attended this event of behalf of FACC and was able to find a home for some rescued plants at Rutherford Park.

Mantua/Fairfax Circle March 19th

Ted & Suzy advised this project of 400 apartments and retail at the shopping center at the intersection of Rt. 50 and Blake Lane so far appears to be a low budget affair lacking inspiration or innovation.

Supervisor Cook TV Show March 27th

Ted has arranged with Supervisor Cook's office to represent FACC. There was consensus that the previously circulated talking points* are good, including the idea of urging folks to join "Team Accotink".

Vienna Green Expo April 24th

Ted has registered and will staff the FACC table. Philip will arrange to deliver display materials.

• FY 2015 County Budget:

Philip advised the proposed FY 2015 county budget includes cuts to the Park Authority that would eliminate permanent staff at Lake Accotink Park and close the park office. The budget would do the same at Burke Lake Park and Lake Fairfax Park and eliminate three positions at Riverbend Park. While

staffing changes would not directly affect the FACC mission, it would mean loss of staff familiar with and friendly to the natural areas of the park. There will be public hearings April 8, 9, & 10, with a presumed written comment period afterwards.

Philip will put information on our website, including a template for persons to voice their opinions to supervisors and check with FLAP on possible collaboration. Kris will submit comments on behalf of FACC.

Budget text: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dmb/fy2015/advertised/fy2015-fy2016-possible-budget-reductions-list.pdf> , page 8

Hearings schedule: http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dmb/county_budget_calendar.htm

- *Northern Virginia Soil & Water Grant:*

Kris noted NVSWCD has submitted the grant and has a backup option, should this grant not come through. Philip mentioned the citizen who had offered his own funds as seed money for Flag Run restoration is current involved in email exchanges with Stormwater Planning, putting some heat on them to justify their methods for prioritizing restoration projects.

- *Webpage Update:*

Philip urged the holdouts on the board to submit their blurbs for the improved "About" page. Liz offered stealing blurbs from the Friends of Sligo Creek website as an option.

Philip also displayed a new option for the photos at the top of our homepage, changing it to one photo, linked to our lecture series. The consensus was in favor. There was extensive discussion of other possible webpage changes.

* Suggested Earth Day TV Show Topics:

- Since Clean Fairfax will also be there, and the Potomac Watershed Cleanup approaches, that is an obvious topic -
 - 26th Annual Cleanup includes the entire Potomac watershed
 - Last year during just a few hours on just a few short stretches of this one small creek, 546 volunteers together removed 532 bags of trash, 55 tires, and junk ranging from a sod roller to an engine block. The litterbugs never rest, and neither can we.
 - Groups welcome to join the cleanup - schools, scouts, clubs, businesses, houses of worship
- Amy Gould suggested discussing the inadequacy of Clean Fairfax funding and results, but perhaps this could be worded as the need for more vigorous support by industry and the Commonwealth to keep our streams clean, because we are not succeeding now.
- Amy also suggested mentioning the film festival, if after the air date.
- What stream monitoring tells us about the poor health of our stream and why the impervious surfaces we all love are the cause.
 - This is why two cents of property taxes are allocated to improved stream health through stormwater control.
- Join Team Accotink - at home or where you work, on the web or on the ground! Or be a friend to your local stream.
- Coordinate topics with Jen Cole of Clean Fairfax?
- Is it dreaming too big to imagine Ted, Jen, and Supervisor Cook performing the cleanup anthem?

Philip Latasa

Friends of Accotink Creek