



Friends of Accotink Creek Town Meeting

November 17, 2014

Next Meeting: December 15, 2014

Audrey Moore Rec Center, Clubroom 3
(Third Monday of each month)

Present:

Kris Unger
Philip Latasa
Flint Webb
Sandy Collins

Upcoming events:

- Route 1 Forum Coalition for Smarter Growth, December 3, 2014
- Lake Accotink Park Stream Monitoring, December 13, 2014
- Next FACC meeting, December 15, 2014
- FACC Board elections, December 15, 2014

Action Items:

- *Sandy – Arrange Anacostia trash trap visit*
- *Kris, Philip, & Suzy – Work on Merrifield historic marker*
- *Philip & Sandy – Get mussel survey information*
- *Ted – Arrange Walnut Hill Farm visit*
- *Philip – Prepare canker worm letter*
- *Kris – Develop workshop ideas*

FACC Subjects Discussed –

• International Coastal Cleanup:

Virginia Eagle Distributing

Kris and Sandy reported 15 hardy volunteers from Virginia Eagle Distributing participated in the Nov. 15 cleanup along Flag Run in Lake Accotink Park. Despite some possible differences of opinion between our two groups, by the end of the cleanup the “vibes” were good enough to inspire possible talk of cooperation on Styrofoam abatement.

• Whole Foods Funds/Mastenbrook Grant:

Philip advised WSSI is no longer interested in doing a mussel survey, due to unspecified “conflicts of interest”. Two other private mussel surveyors promise to have estimates “soon”. Philip also talked to a biologist at the Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin who encouraged a volunteer effort which he might support from afar. Philip will clarify this offer. Sandy will inquire with some of her professional contacts who do mussel surveys.

Kris will be sending an interim report to Whole Foods on our use of the funds.

• Long Branch Central

Kris reported on his Nov. 7 nature outing with a dozen Daisy Scouts along the Long Branch central tributary at Pickett Road. Sunset arriving earlier than planned for turned the excursion into a night hike by flashlight, with Daisies practicing their nocturnal coyote calls.

- Represent FACC:

Gannett Regional Non-Profit Forum Nov. 6

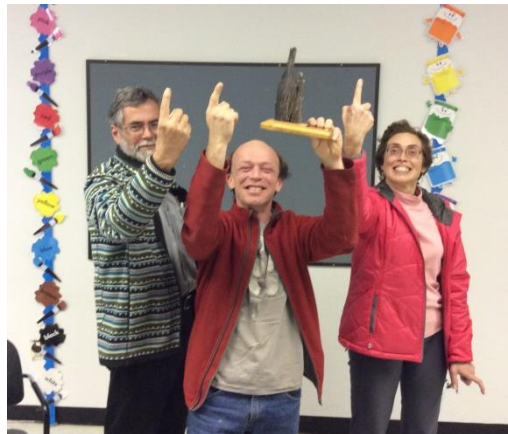
Kris described his participation in discussion groups at this event, sponsored by the Mclean Chamber of Commerce. Amid the feel-good platitudes, Kris played something of the skunk at the picnic by emphasizing the conflicts that lead to the need for partnerships between private enterprise and non-profits. The Transurban representative proved to be relatively accommodating. Philip urged Kris to press Transurban once again to revive its community grant program.

Kris outlined ideas for partnerships with good actors in the watershed, using [M.O.M.s Organic Market](#) as an example, possibly asking them to fund a Meetup membership for FACC.

Trash Summit Nov. 7

Flint related the discussions he had participated in at the Alice Ferguson Foundation annual Trash Summit on disposable bag bills, reduction of Styrofoam, and public-private partnerships. Flint pondered if an annual lower Accotink canoe trip could be a possible partnership with REI.

However, the highlight of the event was the presentation to the annual Potomac Champion Awards. Friends of Accotink Creek was among the awardees for our stream cleanup efforts. The award plaque was appropriately partly crafted out of Potomac driftwood. When Flint displayed the award, the group's responses to its unique shape were less than solemn.



Joint FACC/FLAP meeting

Kris has not heard from FLAP.

Anacostia trash trap visit

Sandy will take charge of arranging a visit.

EQAC Hearing Jan 15

This is the county's annual Environmental Quality Advisory Committee meeting to take general public comment. Flint recommended we await the draft annual report and then comment on that.

Flint also addressed the specific issue of county spraying for fall canker worms, *Alsophila pometaria*. Since these are native insects and spraying cannot avoid adversely affecting populations of other native insects, Flint recommended FACC register opposition. Philip will draft a letter.

On the general topic of tree damage, Philip noted VDOT has just cut down the volunteer trees, native and invasive alike, that were establishing themselves along 495.

Giles Run Tire Dump

Flint described his meeting at the Trash Summit with fellow watershed defender Joe Chudzik of Mason Neck Citizens Association and his current issues with an illegal tire dump along Giles Run. After discussion, the group decided to send a letter to county officials supporting Joe's request for action. Philip will draft and put information on website.

- *Daniels Run Restoration:*

Philip described the 800 linear feet stream restoration planned on property of Daniels Run E.S. for next summer. Fairfax City obtained grant funding from the DCR Virginia Stormwater Local Assistance Fund. Given the limited area to create meanders without sacrificing school property, the restoration will still feature a fairly straight channel. WSSI is in charge. There will be opportunity for plant rescue, with the plants to go to nearby habitat areas on school grounds.

- *Grant Proposal*

The discussion of the proposal to do hands-on workshops for community outreach continued from last meeting. Discussion leaned toward Walnut Hill Farm as a possible venue, with a timeframe of next spring, possibly involving GMU, possibly connected to the spring cleanup season. A Meetup membership was discussed as a potential use of grant funds. Kris will interact with relevant persons.

- *Wakefield Run:*

Philip related results of recently resumed volunteer monitoring of Wakefield Run. Invertebrate numbers have already rebounded since completion of restoration and variety is improved also, including several mayflies, a species intolerant of impaired waters. Overall score was still low, 3 on a scale of 12.

- *501c3:*

Philip noted the elections for Primary Conservator, Secondary Conservator, and Chronicler are coming up in December, so it is time for candidates to gear up their committees or for incumbents to recruit their replacements.

- *Meeting in Box:*

Philip distributed forms for individual comments to be submitted to the Parks Count! Needs Assessment survey, done only once every 10 years. The group then discussed which ideas should be submitted as Friends of Accotink Creek suggestions. Philip will submit.

Philip Latasa

Friends of Accotink Creek
