



## 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 – December 20, 2016

Next Meeting: January 17, 2017 (Third Tuesday of each month)  
Audrey Moore Rec Center, Senior Center Lobby

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**Present:**

- Dave Lincoln
- Flint Webb
- Ted Welch
- Beverley Rivera
- Philip Latasa
- Julie Chang
- Sue Kovach Schuman

**Upcoming events**

- Day of Action meeting, January 18, 2017
- HOA Forest management presentation, January 19, 2017
- Conservation Lobby Day, January 23, 2017
- Lake Accotink Park Master Plan Natural Resources workshop, January TBD, 2017
- Friends of Friends meeting, January ??, 2017
- Lake Accotink Park Stream Monitoring, March 11, 2017

**Action Items:**

- *Everyone – Brainstorm grant application ideas*
- *Ted - Contact Scout Store*
- *Kris – Request M.O.M.S. donation day*
- *Kris & Julie – Discuss Accotink Gorge with FROGS*
- *Julie – Contact Virginia Conservation network on Day of Action*
- *Philip – Confirm Friends of Friends of Parks meeting*
- *Beverley – Request funds form PayPal*
- *Dave – Organize January Day of Action meeting*
- *Philip – respond to Park Authority with new Friends Agreement language*

**FACC Subjects Discussed –**

• FACC Elections:

By acclamation, all incumbents were reelected to FACC Board of Conservators positions:

- |                       |                 |  |
|-----------------------|-----------------|--|
| Primary Conservator   | – Kris Unger    | – January 1, 2017 to December 31, 2019 |
| Secondary Conservator | – Ted Welch     | - January 1, 2017 to December 31, 2019 |
| Chronicler            | – Philip Latasa | - January 1, 2017 to December 31, 2019 |

**SUPPORT/DONATE**  
*It's easy & free!*



Holiday wreath crafted of wisteria vines from the Accotink Gorge

• Represent FACC:

○ *Film Screening: [Bag It](#) 11/21*

Philip confirmed he had attended this screening organized by the GMU Green Patriots and Virginia Green Baggers. Philip was able to hand out a few Day of Action flyers and the Green Baggers representative confirmed she would join. The Virginia Green Baggers promote reusable bags by sewing handmade bags and distributing them free at events.



Green Baggers handmade bag

○ *General Assembly Preview 12/03*

Julie and Dave attended the Preview, organized by the Virginia Conservation Network. There were presentations by groups including Piedmont Environmental Council, The Nature Conservancy, Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Virginia League of Conservation Voters, Garden Club of Virginia, Virginia for Fair Redistricting, and Appalachian Voices. Topics covered included green communities, legislation restricting proffers, use of proffers for historic and environmental set-asides, gas taxes, mining legislation, gerrymandering as affects environmental issues, agricultural best management practices, Stormwater Local Assistance Fund, Alexandria combined sewer system overflows, legislation weakening water quality, gas pipeline overbuilding, and E.O. Wilson's call to preserve 50% of land and 50% of water worldwide.

Julie obtained the attendee contact list for future networking. She will also be in touch with the VCN sponsoring staff regarding our Day of Action.

The annual VCN Conservation Lobby Day is January 23 in Richmond. Registration is \$25, including lunch. Dave will attend and others are welcome.

○ *County TMDL Meetings 12/14&15*

Philip attended this public meeting to present the County's Draft [Sediment](#), [PCB](#), and [Bacteria](#) and [Chesapeake Bay](#) TMDL Action Plans. Accotink Creek sediment is excluded from this round of action plans until the next permit in 2020, due to delays introduced by the 2012 [TMDL lawsuit](#). The county is placing heavy reliance on stream restoration as the most cost-effective approach, but it was noted in our discussion that there is little measurement of actual results.

Public comment is open until January 23<sup>rd</sup>, but Philip wondered what we might want to say. Flint and Dave suggested we mention a reminder of Accotink Creek's needs, the benefits of retrofitting upstream, and collecting before and after data on stream restorations.

Philip remarked that, having been one of the few public attendees, he had asked several questions, prompting Randy Bartlett, Deputy Director, Stormwater and Wastewater Management Divisions, to offer to sit down for a couple of hours for a Q & A on stormwater issues. Philip noted he was not entirely sure what to ask. Ted offered the topic of trash traps.

Discussion touched on the current restoration underway on Crook Branch and reaching out to the GMU Office of Sustainability.

- *Fairfax County Restoration Project Meeting 12/15*  
Philip summarized the FCRP meeting. Lingering 495 Express Lanes issues were an agenda item. 495 landscaping improvements are in progress.

The Accotink Gorge was also on the FCRP agenda, including shortcomings of the Friends Agreement as a template for all Friends agreements. Coordination with various landowning parties was discussed at the meeting. VDOT will look into their ownership of land in the gorge. Public Private Partnerships indicated good connections with Dominion and will raise the gorge with them.

- *Long Branch Falls Park Deer Fencing 12/31*  
Philip advised a stream restoration is planned, but not yet funded. New plantings and deer fencing are a corollary step and all are welcome to a public meeting to view them on the site.
- *Braddock District Friends Federation Meeting 1/21*  
Philip noted Tony Vellucci has scheduled a Braddock District Friends groups meeting at Braddock Hall (Kings Park Library) for Saturday January 21, 2017 from 9:00 - 11:30. Anyone is welcome. Kris may go, since he attended Tony's potluck dinner where the idea arose.

- *Friends of Friends Meeting 1/28*  
Philip brought up the topic of a planned Friends of Friends of Parks meeting in January, but there was confusion on the date and source of information. Philip will clarify.

Flint noted the Federation of Civic Associations will have a presentation on homeowners' association forest management plans January 19<sup>th</sup>, 7:30, at the Mason Government Center.

- *NOVA's Annual Green Festival 4/25*  
Philip reported NOVA's Annual Green Festival will be April 25<sup>th</sup>. The theme is "We Are All Downstream – what's in our oceans, rivers, streams, and creeks?" Apparently Kris is to speak or be on a panel and we will have a table. All are welcome to join.

• *Purser's Report:*

Beverley reviewed our check register and deposit register activity. We have received \$1200 from the Fairfax Water grant for Little Run Elementary, all of which has been disbursed. We have a current balance of just over \$2100 in the bank.

• *PayPal Donations:*

Philip let us know we had received about \$430 in PayPal donations in 2016, many in the past couple of weeks, including from supporters such as \$35 from Matt Bright, \$100 from Joe Hirz (Fairhill Elementary project), \$25 from Su Jewell, \$50 from Elaine Sevy, and \$100 from Philip's brother in lieu of an Xmas gift.

*Many thanks to all our donors and supporters!*

Philip reckoned we need to ask PayPal to send the funds to us, and Beverley will handle that.

Philip queried the group regarding images that should have been visible in our December support appeal and bemoaned the pitfalls of technology upon hearing the disappointing results.

- FLAP Funds:

Philip advised FLAP will earn about \$1000 from a recent half-marathon at Lake Accotink Park. Wanting to avoid the bother of letting the Park Foundation hold funds, they asked at their December meeting if FACC could hold the funds. Philip agreed and the group endorsed without dissent. Beverley will establish a new account for clarity of accounting.

- Plant NOVA Natives:

Philip passed along an invitation from the organizers of Plant NOVA Natives to officially join in the partnership to promote native plants to the public. They are looking for each organization to send someone to participate in Steering Committee meetings three or four times a year to help devise strategy. Julie will attend.

- Urban Forestry Roundtable:

Flint and Ted engaged in a discussion of online resources available to guide property owners on seasonal insect activity aimed at making spraying more targeted at pests while avoiding harmless and beneficial native species, such as pollinators. Flint mentioned the Virginia Department of Forestry does Neighborhood Forest Management Plans, focused on homeowner associations.

- Lake Accotink Master Plan:

Philip talked about the December 5 trails workshop, which followed the same game night format as the earlier amenities workshop. There have apparently been suggestions of rerouting the loop trail segment that is on the street down into wetlands along the creek. Tony Vellucci is organizing an excursion to look at the area. Philip recommended we should vigorously oppose habitat destruction and paving in the RPA. The alternative is better signage, so people understand better where they are going. Flint offered the possibility of boardwalk versus paving.

- Bio-scouting in Wakefield Park:

Philip advised Meghan Fellows Ecological Restoration Specialist, Watershed Projects Implementation Branch, is surveying sections of the creek with a view to making stream restorations more quickly return to quality natural riparian habitat.

- Nature Journaling Mondays:

Philip noted the Springfield Art Guild has begun Nature Journaling sessions, combining writing and sketching, meeting each Monday afternoon at the marina.

- Litter Initiatives:

- Day of Action

Philip announced our [Day of Action webpage](#) is up. He described meeting Delegate Bulova at the County TMDL meeting and let him know about the Day of Action. Delegate Bulova indicated Senator Petersen is planning to introduce a plastic bag bill again. Flint urged working with Senator Petersen to learn how we can support the bill.

Dave reminded us the next Day of Action meeting is January 18<sup>th</sup>. Dave will work on organizing the meeting.

- Accotink Gorge:

- *Friends Agreement*

After review and discussion, revised Friends Agreement language proposed by the Fairfax County Restoration Project was adopted without objection. Philip will contact the Park Authority with changes.

- *8104 Alban Rd*

Philip observed a 10.4 acre private parcel is for sale at the lower end of the gorge, bordering parkland and including 450 yards of streambed. (Listing below) At \$2.5 million asking price, it exceeds our available funds by about 1000 percent.

Philip reported he had contacted Northern Virginia Conservation Trust, who doubted grant money would be forthcoming for this less-than pristine site. He also contacted the Park Authority board. The information was passed to board staff for consideration, but if there is interest, that will be kept confidential pending outcome of negotiations. We were invited to make a presentation to the Park Authority Board, but there were no immediate takers.

Tongue-in-cheek suggestions for raising funds to pay for the parcel included selling crafts made of wisteria vines and conducting Grand Canyon style mule rides into the gorge.



## 8104 Alban Road, Springfield, VA 22150

<http://www.loopnet.com/Listing/17746378/8104-Alban-Road-Springfield-VA/>



Price: \$2,500,000 Lot Size: 10.40 AC Property Type: Land  
Property Sub-type: Industrial (land) Zoning Description: 1-5 (Industrial General)  
Listing ID 17746378

1 Lot Available Lot 3B

- Price: \$2,500,000
- Lot Size: 10.40 AC
- Price/AC: \$240,384.62
- Lot Type: Industrial (land)
- APN / Parcel ID: 0991 01 0003B
- Site Plan Completed, Industrial Development Potential

### Description

Site totals 10.4 acres, with 4.65 acres usable +/- due to the floodplain along Accotink Creek.

Site Plan Completed.

Industrial Development Potential including: contractor's yard/shop, warehouse and manufacturing uses, heavy equipment and specialized vehicle sales and/or truck rental establishments.

Located behind Peterbilt in the Newington Industrial Submarket of Fairfax County, immediately south of the Fairfax County Pkwy and I-95 interchange.

3 December, 2016

