



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 – February 21, 2017

Next Meeting: March 21, 2017 (Third Tuesday of each month)

Audrey Moore Rec Center, Senior Center Lobby

SUPPORT/DONATE
It's easy & free!

Present:

Dave Lincoln

Julie Chang

Kris Unger

Flint Webb

Sandy Collins

Suzy Foster

Philip Latasa

Elaine Sevy

Patty O'Neill

– Welcome, Patty!

George Kralovec

– Welcome, George!

Kim Schauer

– Welcome, Kim!

Alex Ross

– Welcome Alex!

Upcoming events

- Lake Accotink Park Stream Monitoring, March 11, 2017
- Trash Day of Action planning meeting, March 13, 2017
- Environmental Stewardship Fair, March 24 – 26, 2017
- NOVA Green Festival, April 25, 2017
- Springfest, April 29, 2017
- International Coastal Cleanup, Saturdays in April, 2017
- Trash Day of Action/Battle of the Bottle, May 8, 2017
- Lake Accotink Park Master Plan Natural Resources workshop, TBD, 2017

Action Items:

- *Everyone – Brainstorm grant application ideas*
- *Ted - Contact Scout Store*
- *Kris – Request MOM's donation day*
- *Kris & Kim – Develop new community grant application*
- *Philip - Send letter of support for Federation Cankerworm position*
- *Kris, Suzy, & Philip – Prepare Accotink Gorge recommendations for Dominion*
- *Philip – Submit cankerworm comments*
- *Philip – Request separate Master Plan natural resources meeting*

FACC Subjects Discussed –

- Springfield Art Guild:

Elaine related that April marks one year of partnership between Springfield Art Guild, FACC, and FLAP, and described the travails of the Park Authority permitting process. She welcomes any suggestions for tweaks to the partnership for plein air art and nature journaling. Elaine has approached Fort Belvoir about outings on the Accotink Bay Wildlife Refuge and has received interest. Kris offered that FACC was fully on board and willing to do whatever more we can do. Elaine expressed a need for botanical identifications. Patty suggested Virginia Native Plant Society as a source.

- Conservator-at-Large:

Late-entering candidate Julie was elected by acclamation to fill the Conservator-at-Large board position being vacated by Sue for the remainder of the term until December 2017.

- Represent FACC:

- Conservation Lobby Day 1/23

Dave advised he and Julie attended this event organized by the Virginia Conservation Network and got some commitment from VCN to publicize the [Trash Day of Action](#). Dave described his discussions Senator Saslaw and with Delegate Albo, who expressed his enthusiasm for Pohick stream cleanups, but not for any fees or deposits on bags or bottles.

Julie noted she had met Delegate Barker, an advocate of bag bills and the combined sewer outfall bill. Julie sent a Trash Day of Action flyer to the Lobby Day organizer.

Dave remarked that Julie had learned a number of chants that will be useful for the Trash Day of Action.

- Plant NOVA Natives Steering Committee

Julie let us know she had attended the Steering Committee meeting and been placed on a nursery outreach team. She also took the opportunity to promote the [Trash Day of Action](#), which Plant NOVA Natives will pass on to members. Julie mentioned a goal of Plant NOVA Natives is to have at least one native plant in each yard.

Patty mentioned Merrifield Garden Center winter seminars for employees on use of non-invasives. Alex joked she could “provide muscle” for Julie’s visits to nurseries and suggested connections with gardening groups such as the Fairfax Women’s Club could be useful. Sandy offered the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Chesapeake planting guide as a resource. Elaine added the Northern Virginia Soil & Water Conservation District’s Watershed-Friendly Homes Tour as another resource.

- Our Land, Our Water, Our Food

Kris participated in this gathering sponsored by the Audubon Naturalist Society, promoting collaboration among food, farming, and watershed groups in the Metro area. Kris noted the attending groups tended to be “one level up” from us in terms of size.

- Friends of Friends Meeting

Kris recounted that his appeal for the [Trash Day of Action](#) got applause, but the meeting was otherwise unremarkable.

- *Braddock Road Meeting*
Philip shared copies of written [comments](#) he had submitted. He described the current plans as involving no additional lanes, but will still cause much loss of tree cover due to turn lanes and bike paths. A dramatic realignment of Danbury Forest Drive is proposed, putting it on the banks of Long Branch and in the RPA.
- *IMA Appreciation Event*
Philip enquired if anyone was interested in attending this event in his place. Dave and Julie may be interested.
- *Teen Job Fairs March & April*
Philip shared a schedule of teen job fairs being held by supervisors and talked about how this may be a source of ideas for the unformed idea we have of a summer job program in the Accotink Gorge. Patty and Julie will attend.
- *NOVA's Annual Green Festival*
Philip asked if there was any update in our plans to be represented at the NOVA Green Festival. Kris remarked that the idea of screening the movie [Bag It](#) does not fit the schedule, but he will ask about promoting the [Trash Day of Action](#).
- *Springfest 4/29*
Philip wondered how our plans for participation were developing. Dave will attend and Kris will follow up with Clean Fairfax.

- *Virginia Conservation Network Membership:*

Dave endorsed the benefits of membership in VCN at the \$100 "Dogwood" level. Without objection, Dave was approved to enroll and be reimbursed.

- *Litter Initiatives:*

- *Day of Action*
Dave briefly recapped the latest [Trash Action Network](#) meeting, touching on the target, the International Bottled Water Association, and the date, May 8th. Kris was enthusiastic about the energy present at the meeting. The next Trash Action network meeting is March 13th at Sherwood Regional Library. Dave also brought up the sign and costume workshop to be held in late April. Flint pondered the value of meeting with IBWA prior to the Day of Action.

Julie related her contact with the GMU Office of Sustainability. Students earning service learning hours could probably not join the actual Day of Action, but could join cleanups and apply their artistic talent to sign and costume design.

Philip announced he had sent the inaugural tweet with the hashtag [#trashdayofaction](#). He urged all to "Tweet! Tweet! Tweet!"

George asked which other groups are supporting the Trash Day of Action. Dave mentioned a few, Sierra Club Great Falls, Audubon Naturalist Society, Friends of Huntley Meadows, etc. This led to a discussion of local vs. Commonwealth division of authority for legislating matters like this.

- *SB925 & HJ626*
Philip lamented both litter-related bills went down to defeat in committee. He advised we should approach legislators soon after the current session ends to plan for next year.

- *Accotink Gorge:*

- *Dominion Power*
Kris conveyed the news of a recent meeting with Dominion Power in the Accotink Gorge and how pleased he had been by the interaction between representatives of Dominion and the Park Authority. Dominion undertook to target wisteria in their management of the right-of-way. Suzy and Kris will work on guidelines for them.

Philip shared another bit of positive news, that employees of SOLitude Lake Management recently volunteering at the Lake Accotink Invasive Management Area site, had been persuaded to shift their attention to the Accotink Gorge. Since all of these personnel are herbicide-qualified and experienced with invasives, their contribution could be valuable.

- *Outreach to FROGS*
There was discussion of the awkward position of Julie as a park employee interacting between the different groups. Philip recalled our objective was to share expertise and ideas. Kris opined that we should let the matter “estivate”, so no action will follow for now.

- *DPWES Meeting:*

Kris recalled that this upcoming meeting with the Director of DPWES came about after the “colorful” differences of opinion at an earlier trash monitoring meeting hosted by Clean Fairfax Council. Philip added that, although the main topic was the litter monitoring program, suggestions for broader topics were welcome. Kris recommended the Alice Ferguson Foundation’s interest in expanded Northern Virginia activities. Flint suggested periodic assessment of progress achieved by watershed plan implementation. Dave offered the [alternate view of stream restorations](#) and upstream stormwater control through the [Conservation Assistance Program](#) financial incentives, likening in-stream efforts to “Shutting the gate after the cow gets out”.

- *Stormwater Planning Updates:*

Suzy had several updates:

- The Oakford restoration is progressing.
- The Flag Run restoration has entered the planning phase.
- The completed Daventry restoration is being monitored for invasives 10 to 12 feet beyond the limit of disturbance.
- The Truro restoration level of difficulty and disturbance has exceeded expectations, including a damaged sewer line, and neighbors alarmed by the extent of clearing caused by invasives control. “Lessons learned” and replanting is expected this fall.

Suzy also mentioned a prior restoration on Little Hunting Creek involving cooperation with Friends of Little Hunting Creek on invasives control.

- Fall Cankerworm:

Flint informed us the Fairfax Federation of Civic Associations would vote on a resolution February 23rd. Without objection, the group approved Philip's draft of [comments](#) based on the Federation's. Philip will send.

- Community Grant:

Kris reported action bottlenecked by his full plate. Kim will work with Kris to advance the process of applying for a new grant.

- Fairhill Elementary:

Kris mentioned proposing that Lands & Waters use some of its grant funding for workshops at Fairhill Elementary. Nothing is definite yet.

- Master Plan:

Philip commented that everyone should act upon a recent email asking for renewed contributions to the online 4-part [Lake Accotink Park Master Plan Survey](#) (bottom of webpage).

Philip also passed on his understanding that the Master Plan meeting on cultural and historic resources requested by FLAP might be combined with the natural resources meeting we had requested. Philip will send a message asking for separate meetings, as a combined meeting would give short shrift to both topics.

- County Environmental Vision:

Philip presented a draft of [comments](#) on the Board of Supervisors Environmental Vision, which were approved without objection. Everyone should also contribute to the [online survey](#) as individuals. Philip will coordinate with Norbert Pink of the Sierra Club on matching up comments.

- MOM's:

Flint recapped his earlier approach to MOM's and the next steps needed to request a donation day. Kris will follow up with MOM's.

- NVSWCD Board Vacancy:

Philip reported Northern Virginia Soil & Water Conservation District is advertising for board member candidates to fill a vacancy. Julie will explore further.

- Environmental Stewardship Fair:

Suzy advised us of the Environmental Stewardship Fair planned at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Oakton, March 24 – 26. The fair will target homeowners, emphasizing native plantings, and will feature expert guest speakers and plant vendors.

- Adopt-A-Stream Terminated:

Philip lamented that [Adopt-A-Stream](#) has fallen to Virginia budget cuts. This has little practical effect on FACC, and on the bright side, there will be fewer reports to file.

- Leidos:

Flint let us know his company, Leidos, has a large number of scientific sample containers available for donation to schools or other organizations.

• *Save the Bees:*

Philip shared photos of the “Save the Bees” poster now on display in Wakefield Park on a recycling container, the product of a Solid Waste division staff contest. Two other posters are located at Spring Hill RECenter and Sherwood Regional Library.

