



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 – September 19, 2017

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

SUPPORT/DONATE
It's easy & free!

Present:

Julie Chang
Sandy Collins
Kris Unger
Dave Lincoln
Philip Latasa
Prashanth Kumaran - guest
Presana Kumaran – Prashanth's mom

Upcoming events

- International Coastal Cleanup, weekends in September and October, 2017
- Wisteria Workday October 10, 2017
- [Trash Day of Action](#), October 26, 2017
- Lake Accotink Park Stream Monitoring, December 9, 2017

Action Items:

- *Philip/Kris – Coordinate Accotink Gorge workday*
- *Dave & Julie – Verify need for registration with Virginia Department of Agriculture*
- *Kris – Check on Merrifield farmers market space*
- *Philip – Propose Americana Northside project to DPWES*
- *Philip - Contact NOVA regarding film festival*
- *Sandy - Obtain information on Frontier Drive*

FACC Subjects Discussed –

• Represent FACC:

- *GMU Get Connected 9/13*
Julie reported she had represented us at this event linking GMU students with volunteer opportunities.
- *First Lego League Hydro Dynamics Expo 9/18*
Prashanth told us about this challenge for student teams to devise solutions for problems in the human water cycle. Julie described her participation in the event, involving 300+ 9 – 13 year-old students. Her discussions there were mainly on trash issues and the Trash Day of Action.

- *Virginia Environmental Assembly 9/22*
Julie reviewed the planned topics of discussion and mentioned she would be connecting with GMU student groups at the assembly. Without objection, the group approved reimbursement to Julie of \$59.73 for assembly fees.
- *Merrifield Fall Festival 9/23*
Dave outlined the multiple layers of fees required to participate. Philip pondered the possibility of sharing space with MOM's Organic Market. Dave mentioned the weekly farmers market and Kris noted the organizers had indicated we would be welcome. Discussion moved toward possible once monthly participation. Kris will check further.
- *Wild Plant Nursery Sale 9/24*
Kris advised several of us will represent FACC at this event.
- *Flint Hill School Community Service Fair 10/4*
Philip explained we received an invitation to participate in the community service fair at this private school just outside our watershed boundary in Vienna, and inquired if anyone was interested? There were no takers.
- *NOVA Environmental Film Festival 10/24 & 10/25*
Philip observed we have displayed at similar NOVA events in the past and should probably do so again and inquired if anyone was anyone interested. Kris noted it would be a good time to recruit for the Trash Day of Action. Philip will contact NOVA.

- *Service Project:*

Prashanth explained he is interested in a service project that would support the environment as well as his application to Thomas Jefferson H.S. Discussion of the possibilities focused on a watershed feature at Frost Middle School. Prashanth will set up a campus survey with his science teacher. Kris may also speak to classes on watershed issues. Prashanth recounted the wild goose chases at Frost, where students armed with brooms are tasked with discouraging geese from taking over the courtyard.



- *Americana Park Northside Project:*

Philip reported the Sierra Club has jurisdictional issues because the project area is in their Mt. Vernon chapter district. Discussion edged toward reprise of the Americana Park meadow model with DPWES support. Kris suggested beginning with a site visit with potential partners. Philip will inform DPWES.

• Trash Action Work Force:

Kris remarked that the effort is gaining more and more allies, including the Alice Ferguson Foundation and Clean Water Action. One or more of the partners might be interested in funding fees for use of the nearby park during the action. Dave pointed out Corporate Accountability International will supplement our action by delivering their [water bottle petition](#) to the National Park Service on the Mall the same day. There was discussion of asking Fairfax County to cease purchasing bottled water at official events, as Arlington has done.

Talk of water bottle waste struck a nerve with Presana, who discoursed on how appallingly wastefully they are used, even before being discarded. Prashanth described how Frost Middle School had installed a bottle refill station and reduced water vending.

• International Coastal Cleanup:

Philip informed us we completed our first cleanup with Temple Adat Reyim on September 17th, with a turnout of 18 volunteers. He also lamented the low signups so far. Dave initiated a discussion of the strange new Park Authority insurance rules preventing cleanup volunteers from using boats, but not preventing boat renters from picking up trash. Prashanth will consider forming a cleanup team.

• Little Run Elementary:

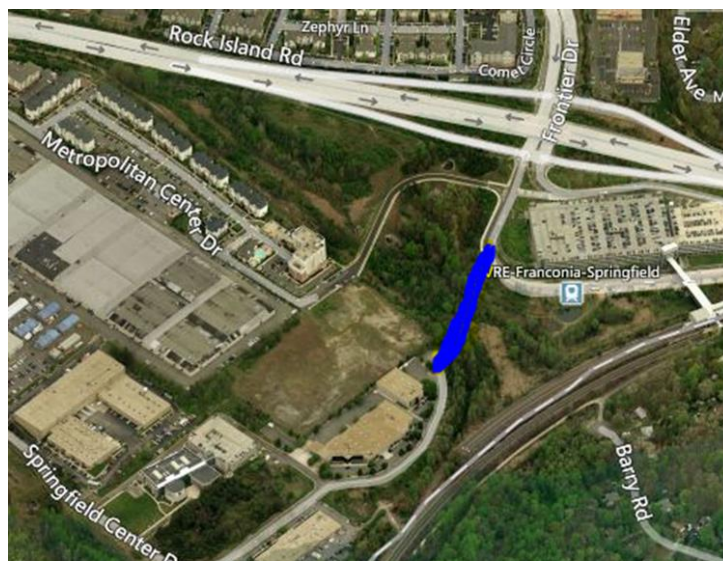
Kris described planning with teachers and Earth Sangha for activities and projects to use the remainder of the Fairfax Water grant.

• Accotink Gorge:

Philip advised we so far have no signups, but was corrected that we have a few on Meetup. SOLitude Lake Management is ready to provide herbicide support and donate the herbicide. Philip also explained he had not yet notified the Park Authority and wondered how this will be received, being our first use of herbicide, and with all the MOU negotiations. Kris will contact the Park Authority.

• TSA Springfield Headquarters:

Philip passed on the news that TSA is moving its headquarters to Springfield. To accommodate the move, Frontier Drive will be punched through a nice patch of woods next to the Metro station. This is a spot we have considered for cleanups in the past. It is also where Metro built a seemingly pointless access road a couple years back. Dave suggested opening this road to traffic as an alternative. Sandy will get more information.



Frontier Drive extension

- Cross County Trail Paving In Wakefield Park:

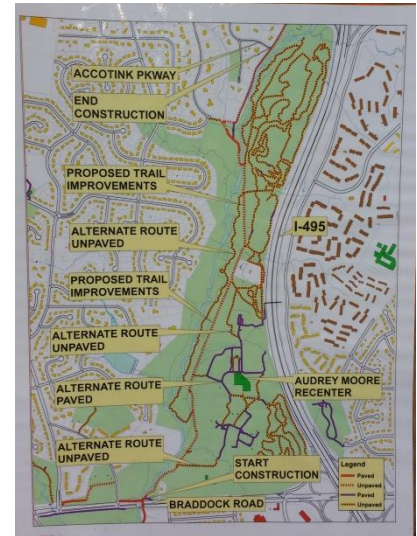
Philip announced the unfortunate paving of the Cross County Trail between Braddock Road and Accotink Parkway has begun. Completion is anticipated at the end of May 2018. Dave commented that VDOT is putting a shared use trail alongside Hunter Mill Drive that will eliminate many trees.

- Stream Monitoring:

Philip shared the regrettable results of the September 9th [stream monitoring in Lake Accotink Park](#), which achieved a pathetic stream health score of 2 on a 0 – 12 scale. Philip also appealed for assistance to continue monitoring of [Wakefield Run](#). He & Kris will arrange a convenient date.

- Friends Group Task Force:

Julie reported on the meeting today of the task force making further revisions to the proposed draft of friends groups MOU agreements with the Park Authority. The latest draft has provisions for customization. The Park Foundation may become a party to some agreements. Micromanagement and annual reports are still an issue. The group discussed whether FACC has need for an MOU.



Cross County Trail paving path in Wakefield Park