



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 – August 16, 2022

Next Meeting: September 20, 2022 (Third Tuesday of each month via on-line meeting: Login info will be posted with the meeting notice in the [Friends of Accotink calendar.](#))

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Present: Avril Garland, Tony Hill, Philip Latasa, Dave Lincoln, Bev Rivera, all via on-line meeting, due to COVID 19 closures and precautions.

Opportunities to represent FACC:

[Fish Survey, August 3, 2022:](#) On August 3rd, a crew from Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources conducted a backpack electrofishing survey about a half mile upstream of Little River Turnpike. We don't have a final report yet, but the professionals opined that the results were "not bad for a suburban stream". Species they found included Black nose dace, Swallowtail shiner, Tessellated darter, Brown bullhead, Yellow bullhead, Creek chub, White sucker, Green sunfish (invasive), and Red-breasted sunfish (introduced).



Philip requested this survey because of anecdotal observations that the prevalence of fish has declined markedly, especially when compared with some tributaries. Although the surveyors found nothing alarming, they don't have any baseline study for comparison, so we really don't know.

[60th Anniversary Lake Accotink Park, August 27, 2022:](#) We were invited by the Park Authority to have a display at the 60th Anniversary of Lake Accotink Park. This will take place August 27th from 11 - 4. Philip will be there and assistance is welcome for any part of that time. Let Philip know if you'd care to join. If you'd like to sign up for cleanup after the event or other general duties, go to [Volunteering - Fairfax County Virginia](#) . Dave took an action to check on volunteering for cleanup.

[Cinder Bed Road Bikeway](#): Philip reported the Amberleigh HOA board had a presentation from FCDOT and was none too pleased that they had not been contacted until this late in the project. Perhaps not coincidentally, a few days later the board received official County notice of intention to acquire land rights. The HOA board seems largely opposed to the idea of the Bikeway, but it remains to be seen how much opposition they will display. If the HOA cannot come to terms with the County, the Board of Supervisors would have to vote to approve condemnation proceedings. Since the words “eminent domain” are rather radioactive, this might be a roadblock for the Bikeway. Dave suggested a waiver of ADA slope requirements in order to use side streets to avoid destruction of rare habitat approaching Franconia-Springfield Metro. Discussion followed about the possibility that the offending slopes could be reduced.

[Accotink Gorge](#): Avril noted we have set a workday for October 31st, 9:30 – 11:30 AM, a Teacher Workday. We discussed places to post announcements, such as churches, and The Connection. Philip has posted the notice in Volunteer Fairfax. (NOTE: Wear your Halloween costume if you can join us.)

[Spicewood Court Properties](#): Philip reported the Northern Virginia Conservation Trust will be returning our \$2500 donation, since the auction went to another buyer. The identity and intentions of that buyer may remain unknown for a few more months.

[Elly Doyle Award](#): Beverley will receive an Elly Doyle Outstanding Volunteer Award from Fairfax County Park Authority for her four years of work at her Lake Accotink invasives management site. The award ceremony will be held November 20th.



Friends of Lake Accotink Park was also recognized by the Park Authority, receiving the [Harold Strickland Partnership and Collaboration Award](#).

[International Coastal Cleanup](#): Philip noted that our cleanup schedule will begin on September 17th, and the schedule is in the [Accotink.org calendar](#).

[Americana Drive Cleanup](#): On August 12th Philip joined a crew from Operation Clean Stream that combined litter pickup with some invasives work along Americana Drive. Our cleanup remains scheduled for November 11th, Veterans Day.

FACC Subjects of Interest Discussion:

Americana Drive Construction Trash Dump: Following up on previous discussions of trying to help reduce dumping at Americana Drive, where we talked before about donating trail cameras to the police for use along Americana Drive: Philip noted that ethics rules probably don't let the County confirm what product might be useful or where it might be used. He received a knowledgeable recommendation for a product likely to be useful (Though there would be no guarantee of that.): the TactaCam Reveal series. There is a confusing variety of models, all cell network connected, but the higher end [solar-charged SK model](#) might be the most useful. It is about \$180, plus \$20 for a data card, and another \$20 for a security cable. As an alternative to an uncertain donation. Beverley has suggested her husband Juan might be willing to use a couple cameras he has. We discussed the possibility that police will do nothing with any violations we record with private assets, and that perhaps we could perhaps shame the truck owners. There is also the possibility that cameras could

be destroyed or vandalized. Philip took an action to look for any successes elsewhere that might give us some ideas, and to explore whether Juan's

[Washington Post Chloride Article](#): Chloride contamination and other issues on Accotink Creek are mentioned in a recent Washington Post article. The thoroughly researched article refers to the [chloride TMDL](#) plan. Although it's not really related to salt, the article also describes the egregious [Northfax West](#) development, as the site where "bulldozers rumbled." Dave, Philip, and Gary were interviewed, as was Katy Johnson, a friend from Fairfax City.

[3033 Chain Bridge Road](#): This location is the former AT&T campus just north of I-66. The marketing brochure indicates they plan to build right to the property line. However, Philip wrote to the Providence Supervisor and got the good news that it is actually very early in the planning process. The supervisor indicated she was working to preserve some of the tree cover on the site and will also take an interest in the small tributary on the site.

[Danbury Forest Drive Stream Restoration](#): The Danbury Forest stream restoration project just north of Lake Accotink Park is scheduled to commence in September. Philip wrote to ask that the resulting streambed be passable by fish; a Stormwater spokesperson said they will try to do so.

[Water Caltrops Control](#): The Chesapeake Bay Journal had an article about recent work to remove a heavy Water Caltrop infestation at Burke Lake. Unfortunately, Lake Accotink has the same problem, just like last year. There was a removal workday July 29th and another one scheduled August 17, an ideal experience for all those who love mud. It is likely Water Caltrop has made its way downstream to Accotink Bay. We discussed the possibility of a scouting trip; Dave offered to provide a kayak on a weekend.

Fairfax City Elections: The meeting reminder included a list of possible questions we might submit to candidates for Fairfax City Council. All thought the questions are useful. Philip observed that it's possible the Fairfax Environmental Forum will want to submit the questions in their name.

Plant Pledge: The meeting reminder also included a Plant Pledge that Avril prepared to use at tabling events. Avril noted useful inputs received.

Kiosk Roof Repair: Philip asked for volunteers or help finding anyone with roofing skills to repair a sign kiosk we built with some Scouts years ago in Lake Accotink Park (pictured) It needs a new roof, especially after a tree fell and put a hole in the roof. Dave offered to help with carpentry.



Donations: Philip reported that FACC received donations totaling \$9.61 from PayPal Giving Fund.

Due to the Pandemic and apparently other concerns, Volunteer Fairfax is waiving membership fees indefinitely, so Philip renewed FACC's membership free of charge.

[Whither FACC](#):

Website Modification: [WordPress Alternative](#). We are still in need of a webmaster to continue work upgrading our web site.