



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.

DONATE

Our many projects to make the creek healthier depend on your support!

Friends of Accotink Creek Town Meeting – August 18, 2026

Next Meeting: September 15 (Third Tuesday of each month via on-line meeting: Login info will be posted with the meeting notice in the [Friends of Accotink calendar](#).)

Present: Philip Latasa, Lilly Mossberg, Gary Bangs, Sandy Collins, Avril Garland, Dave Lincoln, Peter Clark, and Sue Kuiler



AGENDA

• Represent FACC:

- [Springfield Bridge Walk](#): On Saturday, August 22, 10 am will be the walk which culminates at the American Legion where the Fort Belvoir Commander signs a covenant with Springfield politicians celebrating the community and Belvoir's commitment to each other. Gary, Philip, Avril, and Dave will staff an information table highlighting Accotink Gorge wisteria removal efforts and the ecologically disastrous Cinder Bed Road Bikeway..
- [VolunteerFest](#), September 18, 2026 Philip said he registered FACC to have a table at this event. Anyone would be welcome to join.

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- *CareFirst Equity Week*: Philip said that CareFirst has rescheduled for September 23rd. As usual, we will be doing cleanup and invasives removal in the outdoor classrooms at Daniels Run Elementary School. Volunteer wranglers are welcome to join us.
- [International Coastal Cleanup](#): Philip said that he has posted our schedule online. The first cleanup day will be September 19th.

Lily M. said that she is organizing a creek cleanup as her Bat Mitzvah project, and one of the project requirements is to partner with an organization that can support and sponsor the effort. Since she lives near Accotink Creek at King Arthur, she plans to have volunteers join the October 10th cleanup at that location. She is a member of the Rodef Shalom Temple.

Last year, her school had a “Ted Talks Club” where we each made a presentation persuading people to do something, and hers was about [Accotink Creek](#), informing people about the environment and the animals there. She got interviewed by [ABC 7](#) on my presentation,



Slide from Lily's school "Ted Talk" Accotink Creek presentation

- [EarthWellRX Donation](#): Avril said that our donation to EarthWellRX's mosquito control educational project has produced a good result. The project will be a featured display at the Virginia Master Naturalist [2026 Statewide Conference](#). This conference is September 18th through 20th at the Westin Dulles Hotel in Herndon.
- [Cinder Bed Road Bikeway](#): Avril said that she has a Bikeway Zoom meeting scheduled with Supervisor Alcorn Wednesday August 26th. She encourages everyone to request meetings with their supervisor.

Philip said that we have a site visit with Supervisor Bierman's Transportation Aide on August 28th. Supervisor Bierman is chairman of the Board of Supervisors Transportation Committee, so his county-wide duties merit attention to the Bikeway.

We had a site visit scheduled on September 8th with Supervisor Palchik, but she had to reschedule to a date TBD. Likewise, as chairman of the Environmental Committee, Supervisor Palchik needs to examine the Bikeway's impact.

Additionally Philip said that he thought Avril's letter to Supervisor Alcorn hit several nails on the head, so he turned it into a [Facebook post](#). Especially good was her point that the Bikeway project is ***"falling short in all 3 goals of bicycle connectivity, avoiding environmental damage, and fiscal responsibility."***

- [Road Salt Dumping](#)

Not directly related to the Bikeway, but in the same area, we previously discussed an egregious case of road salt dumping on Cinder Bed Road. After we reported it, VDOT compelled the company responsible to remove the salt. After we then reported what a poor job had been done, they tried again. Now the contaminated soils have been replaced and the areas were seeded.



First "Cleanup"



Better Cleanup with Seeding

- [Accotink Gravity Sewer](#): Philip said that after over a year of apparent inaction, The Accotink Gravity Sewer project updated its website, with the cryptic note that work is proceeding "on early construction administrative items".

He asked the Providence Supervisor's office to check on the project status and specifically our concerns for vernal pools along the route. The project manager responded with excuses and evasions, so the Supervisor's office is checking again.

- *Bren Mar Data Center*: Philip said that we haven't had to deal with data centers in our watershed, and haven't been much involved in the regional data center controversies. There is one in our neighboring watershed, Holmes Run that is especially objectionable, being that it intrudes into the RPA, will require a new substation not paid for by the developer, and that substation will be within 100 feet of residences. He circulated an appeal from the Friends of Holmes Run to the FACC Board, and we signed onto a [letter in opposition](#) to permits for the substation.

The County Planning Commission will vote on September 24th.

- [*Nottoway Park Education Project*](#): Avril said that Vivian has submitted a more detailed proposal to the Park Authority. She already has several invasive removal days scheduled this fall using the services of [*Operation Stream Shield*](#). These are to be followed in spring 2027 with native plantings and in fall 2027 with installation of educational signage. The focus of the project will be the park's stormwater pond, centrally located, highly visible, and filled with frogs and other life.

- *EQAC & Tree Commission Consolidation*: Avril discussed that various groups are in opposition to the merger.

She went on to say that we should discuss writing a letter of opposition at least. Citizens for Great Falls issued a Community Call to Action. BOS will vote on Tuesday August 25th on dissolving both EQAC and the Tree Commission. The appeal of the [*Citizens for Great Falls*](#) was sent to the FACC board members.

Philip said that if the Board wishes to act, all we need to do is endorse the concerns of the Citizens for Great Falls and support their request for preserving all the current functions of EQAC and the Tree Commission.

The August 25th hearing will be an opportunity to bring up the Cinder Bed Road Bikeway with the Board of Supervisors again.

There was also a proposal to eliminate the [*Chesapeake Bay Preservation Ordinance Exception Review Committee*](#), a citizen panel that reviews the harder RPA cases, but there seems to be no action at the moment.

- *Fall Invasives Workdays*: Philip introduce several upcoming activities.

- *PRISM Extravaganza*

[*Fairfax PRISM*](#) Extravaganza events will take place on weekends from Saturday, October 3 through Sunday, November 1. During that period, we will have all our regularly scheduled IMA workdays at Southside Park, Accotink Trail, and Lake Accotink Park. It was suggested we try to have local leaders visit and get photo opportunities again.

- *Accotink Gorge*

We will also have workdays at Accotink Gorge, dates TBD.

- *Mastenbrook Grant :*

Avril wondered if we should consider a [*Mastenbrook Grant*](#) from the Park Authority Foundation to support our work in the Gorge. These are up to \$20,000 per year. There are some fairly complex rules on what sort of projects qualify and how the 50% matching by the grantee can be calculated. Ironically, the fact that we are already doing the work and that this is an official IMA site may mean we would have trouble qualifying.

Philip said that he is dubious we could even manage to put together a proposal, much less quality, and comply with the terms.

Avril agreed it probably will not be an option we could use but is discussing further with Gloria from FCPA.

○ *IMA 20th Anniversary*

Philip said that much to our surprise, IMA announced its 20th Anniversary observation will be at Lake Accotink Park on Sunday, October 11th from 10:00am – 12:00pm at the upper pavilion. The activities will include invasives control and a potluck lunch. Even though this is our home ground, the IMA leaders neglected to include us in their plans. Nonetheless, it is a good opportunity for us. Many other IMA site leaders will attend and will bring their tools, including herbicide kits. As many of us as possible should join.

He will get in touch with the IMA staff to help plan what needs to be done.



- [Kris Unger Memorial](#): Sue said that Mike at last completed a plan for the memorial vernal pool. The plan is just one page, plus a site sketch. Let's hope it is professional enough for the City. She will be discussing it directly with city staff. Mike's plan refers to a dedication next spring, so we can't have more endless delay.
- *Donations*: Philip said that we had no donations this month.
- [Whither FACC](#):
 - *Annual Newsletter*: Philip again, emphasized that if we want to have an annual newsletter, we need your submissions and someone who would assist with the compiling and editing.