



Friends of Accotink Creek Leadership Town Meeting

March 18, 2013

Next Meeting: April 15, 2013 Audrey Moore Rec Center, Senior Center Lobby
(Third Monday of each month)

Present:

Kris Unger
Philip Latasa
Sandy Collins
Heather Breiner
Roger Diedrich
Flint Webb
Janet Goodwin
Liz Kirchner
Duane Murphy – Our co-founder and visitor from afar
Bryant Thomas
Suzanne Foster
Pam Rice – Guest
Cole Rice – Guest
Laura Grape – Guest Speaker
Charles Smith – Guest Speaker
Asad Rouhi – Guest Speaker

Subjects Discussed –

• Wakefield Run Restoration

Our guests, Charles Smith, Manager, Natural Resource Management and Protection Branch Fairfax County Park Authority; Laura Grape, Executive Director, Northern Virginia Soil & Water Conservation District; & Asad Rouhi, Urban Conservation Engineer, Northern Virginia Soil & Water Conservation District, discussed the Wakefield Run restoration project.

Wakefield Run originates in Annandale, flows under I-495 and joins Accotink Creek in Wakefield Park. Previously unnamed, it was unofficially named last year after public submissions to NVSWCD were judged by FACC.

Wakefield Run receives high rates of runoff from east of I-495 and is severely eroding. The restoration project aims to arrest erosion and stabilize the streambed west of I-495. Accotink Creek in this area was historically straightened and shows a high degree of channel instability.

Project features:

- Plunge pool at I-495 culvert outlet to initially slow the flow from upstream
- Adding meanders while filling in part of the old channel
- Rock cross vanes (V's of stones) to help channel the flow in desired directions
- Single arm rock vanes (J's) to direct energy away from vulnerable outside curves
- Toe stabilization will protect the base of vulnerable banks with stone reinforcement
- Replacement of existing pedestrian bridge
- Step pools will allow the stream to gradually descend to the level of Accotink Creek
- Stone wet crossing for Dominion Power vehicles and mountain bikes

Bryant pointed out if bike users are not accommodated, they may improvise their own crossing, possibly in a detrimental way. Charles pointed out Mid-Atlantic Off-Road Enthusiasts is being consulted about aspects that affect mountain bike trails.

Forty trees are to be removed, but caution is being exercised to preserve others, especially slower-growing species. Most of the restoration project will be in the existing Dominion Power easement, where no trees are present.

FACC is invited to a preconstruction meeting with contractors in early June. Construction should take place July – October, followed by replanting in October. During construction, the stream flow will be pumped around the work area.

Comparison photos showed the rapid re-vegetation and “greening” of a similar project done in Kingstowne over five years.

Total cost is \$440,000, or roughly \$400-500 per linear foot. Seed funding came from the \$75,000 the Park Authority was compensated for the I-495 Express lanes taking of park land in Wakefield Park. Fairfax County DPWES contributed \$300,000. Dominion Power contributed \$35,000. The Park Authority Foundation will solicit additional contributions from Fluor-Lane, the I-495 Express Lanes contractor, and from Washington Gas. Washington Gas benefits from the project because the gas line crossing Wakefield Run will be better protected, saving potential repair costs.

Charles noted that the cost of the project is comparable to the cost of trying to control the runoff from the 100 acres upstream, which would not have stabilized the streambed. Redevelopment upstream will reduce runoff in the future.

Flint expressed exasperation of taxpayers paying to rework culvert outfall modifications poorly done during the I-495 Express Lanes construction.

Laura mentioned some possible opportunities for public participation in the project:

- A Dominion Power staff stream cleanup day the week of April 8th – Philip & Suzy will coordinate
- A “golden shovel” project kickoff in summer with partners. Photo Opp!
- Tree planting in fall

Charles mentioned the possibility of public walk-throughs during construction.

Charles noted fish habitat will improve after the project, and benthic invertebrate numbers are also expected to improve, although there is less data on invertebrates than on fish. This led to the suggestion of ongoing before and after monitoring of the benthic invertebrate populations, perhaps by DPWES staff or by volunteers. No action was decided.

Timetable: Get permits and break ground by June. Construction through summer. Planting in October. Completion in November.

Kris suggested public outreach on the restoration might be worked into the community initiative part of our grant project, possibly including Braddock Elementary School, at the Wakefield Run headwaters.

Reports:

• Grant Proposal –

501c3: Roger advised that incorporation is pending with the Commonwealth Corporation Commission, and is required before applying for 501c3 status with the IRS.

Roger will use the email board@accotink.org for the 501c3 application.

Liz and Roger stepped forward to fill the two remaining board seats.

The bylaws as prepared by Roger were adopted unanimously.

The first Board of Conservators was elected unanimously:

Kris – Primary Conservator

Suzy – Secondary Conservator

Philip – Chronicler

Roger – Purser

Liz – At large

Initial terms of office are one year for Liz & Roger, and two years for Suzy, Kris, & Philip

Kris will get a check to Roger for application expenses.

Lecture series: Suzy will convene another planning meeting in the coming days. Liz volunteered to host the next meeting at her home.

Community Initiative: Could possibly involve the Wakefield Run restoration and Braddock E.S., as above.

• Planning for spring stream cleanup:

Roger, Liz, and Sandy stepped forward to staff the FACC table at the NVCC Green Festival April 20th. Philip will coordinate details with them.

Philip mentioned that leadership volunteers are still needed for cleanup dates. [Note: I failed to mention this applies even more to the Post-Cleanup Thank You Gathering May 18th.]

• Volunteer Fairfax:

Liz brought up the question of visibility of our Volunteer Fairfax events listings. Philip said they seemed as visible as other VF events, but welcomed all to visit the VF website and offer comments on possible improvements.

• Twitter:

Liz reminded all to use the new Tweet button on our Potomac Watershed Cleanup page to share it with the world.

Upcoming events:

- Eco Art Show, Feb. 28–March 24, 2013, ArtSpace Falls Church
- Friends of Lake Accotink Park Meeting, March 21st, 2013 –Speaker – Don Waye, EPA, regarding TMDL
- Green Festival, April 20, 2013, NVCC
- Potomac Watershed Cleanup, Saturdays, April 6th – May 4th, & May 18th Gathering

Philip Latasa

Friends of Accotink Creek

Schedule for 2013 Potomac Watershed Cleanup

April 6 (official Potomac Watershed Cleanup)

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Join Lake Accotink Park's/Hidden Oaks spring watershed cleanup day

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April 13

9:00 AM - 11:00 AM Accotink Creek at Fullerton Road bridge

12:00 PM - 2:00 PM Accotink Creek at Franconia-Springfield Parkway bridge

(Including cleanup of Hooes Road dumpsite)

3:00 PM - 5:00 PM Accotink Creek at Telegraph Road bridge

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April 20

9:00 AM - 11:00 AM Accotink Creek at Fairfax Blvd bridge

12:00 PM - 2:00 PM Accotink Creek at Chain Bridge Road

3:00 PM - 5:00 PM Accotink Creek at Old Lee Hwy bridge

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April 27 (Fairfax County Springfest/Earth Day/Arbor Day)

9:00 AM - 11:00 AM Accotink Creek at Pickett Road bridge

12:00 PM - 2:00 PM Accotink Creek at Barkley Dr bridge

3:00 PM - 5:00 PM Accotink Creek at Woodburn Road bridge

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May 4

9:00 AM - 11:00 AM Accotink Creek at King Arthur Road bridge

12:00 PM - 2:00 PM Accotink Creek at Little River Tpk bridge

3:00 PM - 5:00 PM Accotink Creek at Braddock Road bridge

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May 18

2:30 PM – 5:30 PM Hidden Oaks Nature Center, Post-Cleanup Thank You Gathering