



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 – March 21, 2017

Next Meeting: April 18, 2017 (Third Tuesday of each month)

Ted's place, 3521 Kirkwood Dr., Fairfax 22031

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Present:

Dave Lincoln
Kris Unger
Flint Webb
Sandy Collins
Philip Latasa
Elaine Sevy
Ted Welch
Bryan Campbell

Upcoming events

- Trash Day of Action planning meeting, March 27, 2017
- Environmental Stewardship Fair, March 24 – 26, 2017
- Greensprings Earth Day Event, April 21, 2017
- Lake Accotink Park Master Plan Resources workshop, April 24, 2017
- NOVA Green Festival, April 25, 2017
- Springfest, April 29, 2017
- Potomac Watershed Cleanup, Saturdays in April, 2017
- Trash Day of Action/Battle of the Bottle, May 8, 2017
- Lake Accotink Park Stream Monitoring, June 10, 2017

Action Items:

- *Everyone – Brainstorm grant application ideas*
- *Ted - Contact Scout Store*
- *Kris, Flint , Philip – Request MOM's donation day*
- *Kris & Kim – Develop new community grant application*
- *Kris, Suzy, & Philip – Prepare Accotink Gorge recommendations for Dominion*
- *Philip – Send letter to DPWES regarding notifications*
- *Philip – Send Illegal dumping note to Supervisor McKay*

FACC Subjects Discussed –

• Friends of Long Branch Stream Valley:

Bryan spoke on his role as President of FLBSV and aspirations for more frequent collaboration with FACC. FLBSV's stream cleanup/scavenger hunt will be April 1st at Canterbury Woods Pool & Tennis Club, with pizza & snacks. There have been about 60 participants in each of the past three years.

- Represent FACC:

- *FCRP Meeting 3/16*

Philip advised Senator Marsden attended. VDOT representatives reported on replacing the failed plantings on 495. VDOT did not report on progress toward correcting the lingering erosion and sediment control issues we surveyed with them nearly a year ago, but promised to do so.

At the meeting, Americana Drive dumping was a topic of discussion without conclusions on what should be done. [Clean the Bay Day](#), June 3rd was suggested as a possible connection.

- *Chesapeake Bay Day on Capitol Hill 4/5*

Philip described the Choose Clean Water Coalition federal lobbying day. Webinars will be held on March 28 and March 30. Flint emphasized the importance of countering proposals to end Chesapeake Bay restoration funding. Ted will plan to attend, but is looking to carpool.

- *Greensprings Earth Day 4/21*

Philip indicated Greensprings retirement community, on the banks of Accotink Creek near Franconia-Springfield Parkway, will have an Earth Day gathering. We will have a table there and hope to find some people with time on their hands. Anyone from FACC is welcome.

- *Master Plan Meeting 4/24*

Philip let us know the next Lake Accotink Park Master Plan meeting will be at Cardinal Forest Elementary School, focused on natural resources as well as cultural and historic resources. Our pleas not to combine the two issues went unanswered, but at least they did respond to our request for a natural resources meeting and to FLAP's request for a history meeting.

Philip conveyed that the plant inventory is complete for Lake Accotink and it will be part of the upcoming master plan workshop. The Park Authority needs volunteers for other activities, if anyone is interested:

FrogWatch
Canada Goose Egg Oiling
Virginia Breeding Bird Atlas

- *NOVA's Annual Green Festival 4/25*

Kris reviewed plans for the Festival, including showing of "[A Plastic Ocean](#)" (12:15 – 1:45). Kris will participate in a panel on trash in the oceans, and will use the opportunity to promote the [Trash Day of Action](#).

- *Springfest 4/29*

Dave is signed up for a display table and will have [Trash Day of Action](#) materials.

- Potomac Watershed Cleanup:

Philip indicated cleanups begin April 1 with several in Accotink Creek watershed by other groups. Weeding of pollinator garden at the Lake Accotink marina will also be April 1st. Fort Belvoir's cleanup is April 2 and Dave may be able to attend. For our Fairfax Blvd cleanup April 8th, we will be cooperating with Country Club Hills in Fairfax City, where they will take a group of volunteers to clean south of the street. Asian American LEAD is deciding which site to join.

To general astonishment, Philip lauded the “near-Herculean” solo cleanup efforts of Ted Plunkett, who cleaned up 60 bags of trash, 16 tires, and much more, during January and February in Wakefield Park.



Ted mentioned the ongoing Fairfax County high school science fairs as a possible source of cleanup recruitment.

• Virginia Conservation Network Membership:

Dave is waiting to hear back from the VCN, and pondered if we should reconsider if they are not responsive. We will play it by ear.

• Litter Initiatives:

○ Trash Day of Action

Dave advised the next meeting is March 27th, and the workday to prepare signs and costumes is April 30th. Dave plans to become “Bottle Man” by decorating an old pair of overalls. Dave praised the level of energy in the organizational meetings and pointed out the thwarted National Parks ban on bottled water as the impetus. A meeting with the International Bottled Water Association is planned. Among activities planned at the Day of Action are handing out reusable water bottles and parking vehicles displaying bags of bottles. Dave promoted the Day of Action at the Green Breakfast.



Ted brought up the issue of plastic bottles disintegrating into micro-plastics. There was discussion of the I.B.W.A. promoting bottled water as a form of health care. Kris pondered the possible existence of Trump brand bottled water, and proved to be a prophet.



Philip urged all to tweet, tweet, tweet at [#trashdayofaction](https://twitter.com/trashdayofaction)! He offered access to the FACC Twitter account for those without a personal account.

• Accotink Gorge:

○ Dominion Power

Philip questioned the state of progress toward preparing guidelines for Dominion Power to address wisteria in their right-of-way, noting that we promised something by April. Kris will cue up the effort in the next few days.

• DPWES Meeting:

Kris reviewed this meeting of FACC and Friends of Little Hunting Creek with the Director of DPWES motivated by concerns over the Clean Streams Initiative trash survey. There was no serious outcome to report.

- Fairhill Elementary:

Kris described the first of two workdays at Fairhill Elementary supported by a Lands & Waters grant from the Chesapeake Bay license plate fund. The workshop will take place on March 24th, a teacher workday, to promote the watershed-friendly landscape design by Joe Hirz. There are already people from the school interested in moving the design forward.

- Fall Cankerworm:

Philip noted Chairman Bulova responded to the fall cankerworm letter we had sent in support of the Federation of Civic Associations. In summary, the response stated there would be no need for spraying this year, funding is from a county-wide pest control tax district, and those funds can only be spent on pest control.

The conversation diverged into Ted's escapade with the police while in the process of appropriating another road kill deer carcass, to rich guffawing.



- Budget Hearings:

Kris talked about responding to Cathy Ledec regarding speaking at the county budget hearings April 4, 5, & 6 with a coordinated plan. Flint remarked the Federation of Civic Associations plans to speak on fall cankerworm and establishment of a county sustainability office. He noted the advertised tax rate, unchanged from last year, is insufficient to avoid cuts of up to \$56M in school funding.

- Stream Restorations:

Philip provided the information that a stream restoration planned on Coons Branch has reached the point of tree tagging and funding is available for the restoration in Long Branch Falls Park. Lamenting that FACC was not being notified of these projects, Philip proposed a letter to DPWES requesting FACC be notified just as neighboring civic associations are. The letter was agreed by consensus.

There was a general discussion of the benefits of differing approaches to stream restoration and the overall merits of restorations.

Dave brought up the [Conservation Assistance Program](#), commending the value of funding retrofits to control runoff before it reaches waterways. Dave reported slow-moving progress on the Conservation Assistance program in his own neighborhood, Daventry.

- Community Grant:

Kris regretted that the new application was still bottle-necked. After discussion without resolving a course of action, Kris said he will send out the last grant application for others to ponder and comment.

- PEREC Spawning Studies:

Philip advised GMU's [Potomac Environmental Research and Education Center](#) (PEREC) will be doing spawning studies on three local streams for ten weeks starting at the end of March. We hope to accompany them along Accotink Creek.

- M.O.M.S.:

Kris had no action to report on requesting a funding day. Flint will share a link for making the request online.

- Stormwater Local Assistance Fund:

Philip mourned the next Virginia budget does not provide any funding for the Stormwater Local Assistance Fund, which helped localities fund improvements to reduce runoff. Ted will discuss the topic with Delegate Keam during an upcoming Rotary meeting

- Illegal Dumping – Supervisor McKay:

Philip expressed appreciation for Supervisor McKay including an article on illegal dumping in his newsletter, directing citizens to report to the Health Department. He suggested we send a note of thanks and it was agreed without objection.

- Fairfax County Citizen of the Year:

Philip conveyed the news that the Federation of Civic Association's 2016 Citizen of the Year is Joe Chudzik, who has led numerous cleanups and anti-dumping campaigns in the neighboring watersheds of Mason Neck and is participating in the Trash Day of Action planning. Also, named as a Citation of Merit Honoree is Ken Balbuena, who is participating in Flag Run restoration planning as President of the North Springfield Civic Association.

There was discussion of FACC attendance at the April 2nd honors banquet, but the group mostly found the \$65 ticket price daunting.

- "Blossoms in the Park":

Elaine brought up the April 22nd "Blossoms in the Park" event presenting programs available at Lake Accotink Park to the public. Elaine will have a Springfield Art Guild table there and will hand out some FACC brochures.
