



Friends of Accotink Creek Leadership Town Meeting

November 18, 2013

Next Meeting: December 16, 2013 Audrey Moore Rec Center, Clubroom 3
(Third Monday of each month)

Present:

Philip Latasa
Sandy Collins
Flint Webb
Suzy Foster
Liz Kirchner
Roger Diedrich
Ted Welch
Naveen Adusumilli
Matt Owens – Welcome Matt!

Upcoming events:

- Friends of Lake Accotink Park Meeting, November 21st, 2013, featuring discussion with Park Authority Trails Manager on new projects of concern to Accotink Creek
- Friends of Accotink Creek Board elections, monthly meeting, December 16th
- Stream Monitoring at Lake Accotink Park, December 14th, 2013
- Lake Accotink Park Master Plan Public Comment Meetings January 13th, 2014
- NVSWCD award to FACC, presentation & reception, January 28th, 2014

Subjects Discussed –

Reports:

• NVSWCD Cooperator of the Year Award to FACC:

Suzy passed around copies of the letter advising us FACC was named Cooperator of the Year by the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District for our work on the Wakefield Run restoration project. The presentation will be at the regular NVSWCD meeting January 28th. Suzy proposed a reception at her home the same evening for NVSWCD and other guests. Suzy will work on details.

• Wakefield Run:

Philip has posted our baseline photos online at

<http://share.shutterfly.com/action/welcome?sid=3AZNWjNw3ZMRk>

Construction is proceeding, starting from the upstream side. At the present pace, it is not clear the work will be finished by the predicted January completion date. We will need volunteers for replanting the native plants we rescued from the work zone.

• International Coastal Cleanup:

Philip noted our last cleanup date was Oct 26. We had a total of 193 volunteers (a new fall high) & 215 bags of trash (not a high). Forcing volunteers to educate themselves first by reviewing our information display before signing in seems to have some effect – but must improve. There was discussion of the merits and difficulties of a video or digital picture frame display.

Philip noted Temple Adat Reyim, long-time source of significant numbers of volunteers, may seek a separate location next fall due to perceived lack of trash at Wakefield Park. There was discussion of perhaps including invasive plant removal.

The October 29th address to the Board of Supervisors by FLAP members Marc Greidinger and Mary Lipsey on the topic of chronic trash accumulations in Lake Accotink was well received.

• Communications grant/Library of Presentation Materials:

Liz explained the experience of the NVCC Watershed Workshop indicated the usefulness of a photo library. Liz will circulate a note for submissions. Dominion might be a source for supporting grants. Naveen suggested the tree chipping plant on Old Pickett road may be a source of funds.

Flint has a neighbor with a stream problem who also crates music videos who might reciprocate for any assistance we can provide. Flint & Ted will pursue.

• FACC Merchandise:

Liz observed the Friends of Sligo Creek has logo T-shirts and we could, too, perhaps featuring mussels. Suzy thought we might offer logo reusable bags to volunteers. Flint noted many online services provide the ability to produce such items. Ted mused on the possibility of series of collectible T-shirts, featuring logo, year, and art on selected watershed themes.

• Rotary Club:

1. *Community Improvement Grant*

Ted explained he had applied for two grants, but in the present economic situation, social welfare needs do not allow the Rotary Club to offer any new grants.

2. *Conservation Presentation*

Ted will still pursue the idea of making watershed presentations to various Rotary Clubs. Liz & Ted will pursue.

• Grant Proposal:

Lecture series:

Discussion focused on whether we need a projector or could rely on equipment at presentation venues. Ted suggested we have something like a traveling "trunk" of presentation materials. Liz will purchase a projector if a sufficiently economical model can be found.

• Green Atoms:

Ted & Philip met with about twenty members of the Green Atoms, the Annandale H.S. environmental club and their advisor, Joyann Binsley. Ted asked the students to write on cards "What is wildlife?" Answers varied, but seemed to indicate many know little of the outdoors. Possible projects with the Green Atoms are yet to be decided, but might include composting or anything relating to outdoors conservation. Members were invited to our next stream monitoring. A second meeting is on track for December.

Liz mentioned Hidden Oaks Nature center is a nearby and informative resource. Suzy noted funding from the Community Initiative grant is available.

- Current Scout Projects:

Jack Dawson recently completed an Eagle Scout project at Lake Accotink Park, relocating trail markers from the former route of the CCT, cleaning out culverts, and removing trash.

Flint remarked that attending Jack's Eagle award ceremony or sending a letter or certificate of appreciation would be an effective form of outreach. Ted will follow up.

- Fairfax County and VDOT lawsuit against EPA Accotink Creek TMDL:

Philip advised Chairman Bulova has responded to our letter requesting an update, advising the Virginia DEQ intends to start the new TMDL in 2013 and complete it by 2016.

- Flag Run Proposal:

Philip advised there is nothing new on the Flag Run proposal, but the potential donor has also mentioned the possibility of donating funds to another worthy application. He mentioned improved interactive/networking online communication on watershed issues in Fairfax, but did not jump at Philip's offer of space to air his views on our website. We had in the past discussed something similar. Philip will keep in touch.

Suzy suggested another possibility might be an anti-deer fencing project.

- Elections:

Philip observed we have two board spots which expire in December 2013, Purser and At-Large board member. Candidates should express their interest now for the elections which will take place at the December FACC meeting. All other spots expire in December 2014. Discussion indicated a preference for candidates not subject to "alcoholic stupors". Philip will put a notice on the website.

Liz suggested officers should be listed on the FACC website. Philip & Liz will pursue.

- 236/CCT Connection:

Philip advised there will be surplus stone made available to us from the Wakefield Run project and the Park Authority will provide transport. We would need to supply volunteers to load and place the stone to stabilize the eroding embankment.

- Lake Accotink Park Projects (letter urging permeable paving)

Philip submitted two drafts of letters expressing our concerns, one joint with FLAP and one solo FACC. Philip will pursue with FLAP. Currently funded projects are at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/archives/100913-pd-pkg.pdf> FLAP will have Liz Cronauer, Park Authority Trails Manager, to discuss project at their November 21 meeting, an opportunity to express again the need for mitigation or avoidance of paving.

- Lake Accotink Park Master Plan:

There will be a Tri-District public meeting January 13 preliminary to revisions of the master plan. We need to be there with some ideas, such as:

- Move or modify parking at dam*
- Defend natural resources over recreation*
- Study dam removal?*

Philip Latasa

Friends of Accotink Creek