



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 – November 15, 2016

Next Meeting: December 20, 2016 (Third Tuesday of each month)

Audrey Moore Rec Center, Senior Center Lobby

SUPPORT/DONATE
It's easy & free!

Present:

Dave Lincoln

Kris Unger

Flint Webb

Beverley Rivera

Philip Latasa

Julie Chang

Suzy Foster

Sue Kovach Schuman

Heinz Unger - guest

Cathy Roth – Guest speaker

Upcoming events

- Lake Accotink Park Master Plan Trail workshop, December 5, 2016
- Lake Accotink Park Stream Monitoring, December 10, 2016
- Lake Accotink Park Master Plan Natural Resources workshop, January TBD, 2017
- Friends of Friends Meeting, January 28, 2017

Action Items:

- *Everyone – Brainstorm grant application ideas*
- *Ted - Contact Scout Store*
- *Kris & Beverley – Complete community grant report*
- *Dave, & Flint – Work on Friends agreement*
- *Kris – Request M.O.M.S. donation day*
- *Kris & Julie – Discuss Accotink Gorge with FROGS*

FACC Subjects Discussed –

- *County Code Policies and Inspections:*

Cathy Roth of Stormwater Planning Division gave us an overview of county efforts to control illicit discharges and dumping to meet the requirements of the MS4 permit. Citizen complaints and reports from county staff in the field are the principal sources of leads. There are also scheduled inspections of outfalls in both dry and wet weather. Some businesses are on an active inspection list based on industrial classification.

Monetary penalties for violators can reach \$32000 per day. There are 19 allowable discharges into storm sewers, such as dechlorinated pool water. Cooling towers require a permit to discharge into storm sewers. Commercial vehicle washing is not an allowed discharge.

Dave brought up the difficulty for citizens of finding information on where to report violations. Cathy recommended the Stormwater Planning number as a “hot line” 703-324-5500. Oil and hazardous waste should be reported to the Fire Marshall. Philip reminded us that all reporting numbers and websites are consolidated on our [Watershed 911 page](#).

When reporting, try to have:

- Location
- Time
- Is offense in progress?
- Suspected cause
- Your contact info
- Photos are helpful

• Represent FACC:

○ *Friends of Friends Meeting 10/29*

Flint attended the meeting, where discussion had covered such topics as the bond referendum, skepticism over a Friends handbook the county is creating, Mastenbrook grants, a possible county history museum, the 275th anniversary of Fairfax County (June 17, 2017), and an inspiring presentation from Cathy Ledec of Friends of Huntley Meadows regarding their campaign to limit the impact of new Dominion towers.

Flint also shared our reservations about our new draft friends agreement from the Park Authority and received general agreement that the language needs improvement. Flint opined this forum may be a possible conduit for recruiting allies for the Day of Action and Accotink Gorge.

○ *NVCC Environmental Film Festival 10/31*

Philip reported he set up an FACC table, but turnout was disappointingly low.

○ *Clean Fairfax’s Clean Streams Initiative 11/15*

Kris informed us that this initiative to gather stream trash data by the county and Clean Fairfax Council was poorly received at the meeting. Philip added that it was much like the old TAFIE data-gathering proposal and offered no money for much work.

○ *Film Screening: Bag It 11/21*

Philip put forward this screening, sponsored by the Mason Green Patriots, as a chance to recruit for the Day of Action. The film is an expose of how plastics are affecting our lives.

○ *EQAC public hearing 1/11*

Kris will attend and speak, as we have in years past. Philip mentioned videos are accepted.

• Grant at Little Run Elementary:

Kris advised us the stream monitoring portion of the Follow the Water program is complete, with good cooperation from Friends of Long Branch Stream Valley and Stormwater Planning Division. There are plans for a Creek Critters stream monitoring in the spring, perhaps with a cleanup and community outreach element. Kris speculated on a tie-in to the chloride TMDL employing student observations and noted that the USGS monitoring station downstream measures conductivity. Kris has billed Fairfax Water for the first \$1200 of the grant.

• Community Grant:

Kris mentioned he has submitted the report on our prior grant and it has been accepted. He will work with Beverley on financial information needed for a new application. He is discussing with Audubon possibly using the new grant in conjunction with Lands and Waters programs at Fairfax High School.

• International Coastal Cleanup:

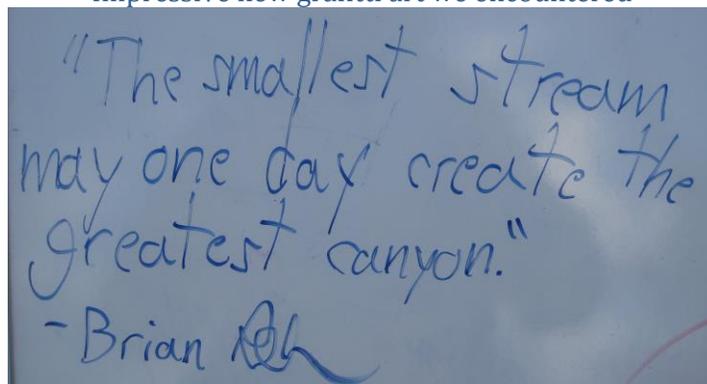
Philip observed in prior years we never reached 200 fall volunteers, but we had 271 this time. We removed 243 bags of trash, 18 tires, and junk ranging from a cremation urn to bottles of Chardonnay.



Strange cleanup finds – Chardonnay, yoga mat, cremation urn



Impressive new graffiti art we encountered



A choice comment from our cleanup volunteers' whiteboard

- Litter Initiatives:

- Day of Action

Dave noted there had been a planning meeting November 1, with another planned for January 18. FLAP and two Sierra Club chapters are interested. The target date is April 10 at the International Bottled Water Association headquarters. Plans will be solidified after January 18th, but permitting issues need to be resolved. Dave observed how our Day of Action theme dovetailed with the Association's hypocrisy in not using recycled bottles. Philip informed us the NVCC Manassas campus Green Club is looking for speakers for a TED talk type event November 30 that might be a recruiting opportunity.

- Accotink Gorge:

Dave remarked on information he had gleaned from a Green Breakfast attendee on herbicide best practices. Julie let us know she had talked to Friends of Green Springs and they are interested in offsite invasives projects. Philip urged quick action to interest them in the gorge. Kris is available to meet and discuss. There was discussion of participating in the Green Springs lecture series.

- Friends Agreement

Philip queried whether we were ready to go back to the Park Authority with revisions to the new draft friends agreement. Suzy emphasized we don't need to give money to the Park Authority when we are already providing volunteer work. Flint mentioned the Friends of Friends wish to be included in the discussion. Dave & Flint will follow up.

- Lake Accotink Master Plan:

Philip described the workshop as rather like a game night, with various stations set up where attendees could use a variety of physical props to offer suggestions and opinions on amenities. We expect a natural resources workshop in January, but need to ascertain the planned format.

- Theft of FLAP Donation Box:

Philip recounted the theft of the Friends of Lake Accotink Park donation box theft after he and Ted had put time and effort into repairing and repainting it. Philip admitted he had taken the liberty of offering a \$500 reward backed by FACC for information leading to the arrest and conviction. After discussion, the group gave somewhat grudging consent. Flint observed the Friends of Green Springs and Huntley Meadows would likely want to know of the theft.

Sue put forth the suggestion of another Lost Dog get together with FLAP.

- M.O.M.S.:

Kris reported no action yet on requesting a donation day and other possible collaboration.

- FACC Elections:

Philip reminded us elections for FACC Primary & Secondary Conservator and Chronicler will happen at our December meeting.