Comments of Friends of Accotink Creek

regarding the Flag Run Stream Restoration

January 19, 2019

It is beyond our capacity to provide much technical advice, but we offer these comments based on our observations of previous stream restorations:

- Keep drops at vanes lower than the maximum 12" for fish passage, to better facilitate movement during low water, when stranding in pools may be a hazard.
- Avoid drops altogether by use of notches and slopes.
- Make the Elgar Street culvert passable to fish by eliminating the drop-off. This was done at the recent restoration at the Wakefield Park entrance and fish have colonized upstream.
- There seems to be no mention in the specifications of aquatic wildlife, either in terms of protection/relocation of existing populations or in terms of the goals of the finished project.
- The Friends of Accotink Creek have conducted native plant rescues in advance of stream restorations. We urge preservation and restoration of existing native plant communities be made a goal.
- The more that restoration infrastructure resembles natural conditions, the better (less blocks).
- Streams will find their own way over time long after we are all gone. Methods that allow for natural meander should be explored.
- You are doubtless aware of the doubts of local ecologist Rod Simmons regarding stream restorations. It is worth considering when stream restorations are not the most appropriate solution - https://www.accotink.org/2016/StreamRestorationDiscussion.pdf

Sincerely,
Friends of Accotink Creek
"Beavers before bulldozers"

Friends of Accotink Creek

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