



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, 2022

Next Meeting: December 20, 2022 (Third Tuesday of each month via on-line meeting: Login info will be posted with the meeting notice in the [Friends of Accotink calendar](#).)

SUPPORT/DONATE
It's easy & free!

Present: Gary Bangs, Peter Clark, Avril Garland, Tony Hill, Katy Johnson, Philip Latasa, Dave Lincoln Beverly Rivera, all via on-line meeting.

Opportunities to represent FACC:

Wisteria Workdays, October 31, 2022: Seven hard-working volunteers showed up for our most recent Accotink Gorge wisteria expedition. Aided by precision herbicide support from the Park Authority's two staff members from the IMA (Invasive Management Area), we made good progress against the vines, but it is only a small part of what needs to be done. The weather cooperated, clearing up after raining right up to the 10 am start time.

While working, we came upon a pair of box turtles with especially attractive patterns on their shells.



Unusually attractive box turtles find mutual attraction during our wisteria workday

Ely Doyle Awards: We congratulated Beverley, who would receive the Park Authority's Ely Doyle Outstanding Volunteer award on November 18, recognizing her four year of invasive management leadership at the Lake Accotink marina site.

[Americana Drive Cleanup](#): On Veterans Day, despite the rain, 27 of the 52 registered volunteers showed up. We were joined by a team of seven from [Operation Stream Shield](#) and two representatives of [Annandale Rotary Club](#), along with residents of the neighboring La Vista Apartments. Braddock District Supervisor Walkinshaw joined us as well. Together we removed 159 bags of trash, 21 tires, and piles of construction debris. As seems to have become a tradition here, the debris included a toilet. There is still much more left out there. The next cleanup will be President's Day, 2023.

We hope to continue and expand the collaboration with Rotary Club to rally community support for the restoration of Accotink Creek.

[Water Caltrap Control](#): The Park Authority organized another water caltrap removal on November 1st, but there are still some spots that were not cleaned up. Dave and Philip also conducted a kayak survey in the Accotink Bay wetlands at the mouth of Accotink Creek and found no infestation there.



[Braddock Road Widening](#): It is not clear what news there may be (Philip noted the last word was the project was not going forward.), but a public meeting on the Braddock Road Widening project has been scheduled for [November 29th](#). Philip plans to attend, and emphasized our primary issue with the project is the proposal to straighten the Danbury Forest Drive intersection at the expense of Long Branch central.

[Long Branch Central Project](#): A public meeting is planned for about Dec. 12th, but it has not been announced yet.

Through the Get2Green newsletter, we learned the Park Authority is offering a version of the Meaningful Watershed Educational Experience (MWEE) to schools in the Accotink watershed. The MWEE's will focus on erosion and are motivated by the need for dredging of Lake Accotink. Bryan, Kim, and Philip got together with a teacher from Canterbury Woods Elementary to discuss how this program might benefit the Long Branch project. They also discussed DPWES's R3 (Revitalize, Restore, Replant) program of schoolyard watershed projects in relation to this project. Although a path is not clear, it seems important that the Long Branch project bring both MWEE and R3 to all the schools in the watershed.

Also as a result of the same discussion, Kim proposed becoming a nominee to the Core Planning Team, of the FCPS Strategic Plan Development Program and also as a Strategic Plan Key Communicator representing FACC. Philip encouraged her to proceed.

Our donations from the Riggs Cove Foundation are related to our interaction with a teacher at Old Forge Elementary School in the Long Branch watershed, so the education aspect of the Long Branch project would be a good place to find an application for those funds. We discussed the need for a proposal writer who can manage the resources necessary to carry through on the projects: (Volunteers?)

[Circle Gateway Project](#): It may not have much watershed effect, since the area is already paved, but the site of the old Lotte store south of Fairfax Circle is being redeveloped into a multi-story mixed use building. We could contact the developer and encourage watershed friendly practices, if anyone would care to take on that task. In discussion of what requirements might apply, Kate noted the City of Fairfax' Small Area Plans (SAP) as a possible resource. (Volunteers for this?)

Quiet Clean NoVA: Avril noted news that the organization is planning to distribute 10,000 door hangers to support the end of using gasoline-powered leaf blowers in Fairfax and Arlington Counties.

Whither FACC:

Annual Newsletter: Thanks again to Beverley for producing our annual newsletter. Our newsletter is timed to also serve as a reminder to our supporters during this season of donations. We can send it out again with our December meeting reminder and post to Facebook closer to Giving Tuesday.



FACC Elections: Just a reminder that we will have elections for Primary Conservator, Secondary Conservator, and Chronicler at our December meeting. Dave expressed his support for somebody to take the opportunity to relieve him as Chronicler.

Website Modification: [WordPress Alternative](#). We are still in need of a webmaster to continue work upgrading our web site.