



Friends of Accotink Creek Leadership Town Meeting

February 18, 2013

Next Meeting: March 18, 2013 Audrey Moore Rec Center, Senior Center Lobby
(Third Monday of each month)

Scheduled Guest: Wakefield Run Stream Restoration Project Committee

Present:

Kris Unger
Philip Latasa
Bill Nell
Sandy Collins
Heather Breiner
Ted Welch
Abby Sternberg – Guest
John Whitmore - Guest

Subjects Discussed –

• Video Projects

Our guests, Abby Sternberg ([Media Masters](#)) and John Whitmore, (www.pedestrians.org) both offered to share their video production experience and skill with FACC. Abby first learned of FACC at the fall 2012 stream cleanup at Wakefield Park with Temple Adat Reyim. Various options were talked over. Philip circulated a list of video ideas that have accumulated over the years, including one embryonic musical video screenplay. Ted suggested collecting some of the photos already on the website into 5 – 10 minute to spur recognition of problems and get viewers involved.

Abby pointed out the need for search engine visibility and getting people to promote our videos on Facebook, etc. Sandy mentioned that USFWS and Maryland DNR do much communicating via short online videos. John observed that many short videos generally work better than a few long ones.

The discussion focused on a stream cleanup video as an initial project. April 27 and May 4 are the target dates for filming cleanup action and interviews with participants. Abby mentioned the need for signed media waivers and Philip will add a checkbox to our cleanup liability forms. Kris & Philip will follow up.

Kris mentioned the possibility of grant money to defray Abby's costs.

Reports:

• Grant Proposal –

501c3: Roger was ill and unable to join us, but discussion of his draft bylaws and articles found them acceptable to all. Ted mentioned personal liability of board members as an issue in previous boards he had known and Kris read the provision Roger had written to specifically indemnify officers and board members.

Kris advocated an odd number of board members and discussion arrived at a consensus of five, the four officers plus one. Board meetings can take place concurrently with monthly meetings. For titles of officers, consensus settled on Coordinator, Protector, Chronicler, and Purser (Note: Problematically, Roger's email excusing himself was not seen in time to include his recommendations for titles in the discussion.)

All being in agreement with the bylaws and articles, the decision was that Roger should proceed at once to obtain 501c3 status. Kris has received the grant check, so funds for this purpose are available.

Lecture series: Kris reported the breakout group meeting focused on about six presentations, among them:

- Watershed makeover at home – Flint
- Composting – Ted
- Stormwater – Bill
- Pervious driveway – Liz

Kris mentioned the community initiative portion is not firmed up, but he will develop ideas.

• Planning for spring stream cleanup:

For now, the cleanup team will be the same as last fall. Our cleanup dates are registered with the Potomac Watershed Cleanup, Volunteer Fairfax, and the Fairfax County Restoration project.

Philip purchased and displayed one of the safety vests with logo insert pockets discussed in January. All present approved the design and authorized purchase of five more @ \$12 each.

Philip discussed the idea (suggested by Ashley Stanton of the Northern Virginia Conservation Trust) of a post-cleanup gathering for volunteers, both as a “thank you” and to fulfill the education/recruitment mission of our cleanups. A stream walk led by Kris is a possible feature. Otherwise, it could be kept logistically simple – featuring refreshments, our existing collection of posters, laptop displays of watershed photos/videos we already have, and a rough version of the proposed cleanup video. It may be possible to invite local officials or Fairfax County Restoration Project members. Target dates are May 11 or 18th, with Kris to confirm availability. The Wakefield Park outdoor classroom and Hidden Oaks Nature Center are possible venues, if cost is not a factor. Sandy will work on the venue.

• Volunteer Fairfax:

Liz listed FACC with Volunteer Fairfax and Philip registered our cleanup events (not yet posted by Volunteer Fairfax). We can also list other events, such as stream monitoring or perhaps create a permanent notice of the need for skilled volunteers.

• BMP Monitoring:

Future Workshop: No news to report at this time. Kris will pursue this further.

• Citizen Action Plan/Plastic Bag Bills:

Flint was unable to join us to fully report, but he has brought the Citizen Action Plan before the Federation of Civic Associations and both the Mt. Vernon and Mason District Councils are promoting it.

This led to discussion of the Virginia Beverage Association’s webpage claim taking credit for leveraging the token litter tax businesses pay into a multi-fold return on investment by counting the hours we suffering cleanup volunteers put in. Philip related this back to one of the video ideas - that of volunteers cataloging items collected, prefacing it with the Beverage Association claim, and letting the volunteers voice their opinion of that claim. Sandy suggested tabulating the items on the spot, with a laptop spreadsheet, or using the International Coastal Cleanup tally forms. There was consensus to go forward.

• Scout Projects

Ted has five scouts interested in projects, two more active than others, including the Girl Scout interested in a chimney swift tower.

Ted will miss FACC meetings for the next twelve weeks while he attends Fairfax Master Naturalist training.

• FACC Contacts to DPWES:

Discussion postponed

NEW ITEMS:

• Northern Virginia Community College Initiatives:

Karen Bushaw-Newton extended an invitation through Kris for FACC to have a table at the NVCC Earth Day event on 4/20 11-4 pm. Bill gave a “maybe” to being able to staff the table. Ted suggested a display could include trash items fresh from our cleanups that day. Sandy suggested we offer the opportunity for visitors to arrange the items into impromptu art works. Kris will coordinate with Karen to verify availability of table, tent, and brochure printing.

Karen has also obtained an EPA grant to host a watershed workshop. Plans are still taking shape.

• Eco Art Show at Falls Church Arts:

Bill plans to participate in this show and passed around pictures of his latest Accotink Creek watershed trash sculpture. (Note: Olivier Giron will be a judge of the exhibition.)

• Thirsty Duck:

Bill is working to have the county consider and incorporate the [Thirsty Duck](#) stormwater pond flow control device into the current Brookfield Park project ([AC9140](#)) that is part of the Accotink Creek Watershed Plan. This project will upgrade a non-compliant legacy farm pond to an active stormwater control pond with enhanced features such as forebays and wetlands, and will aid compliance with Accotink Creek and Chesapeake Bay TMDL's. The device, by offering greater control over the rate of flow, offers enhanced mitigation for the same size pond. Installations start at \$15,000. Bill will report results at our March meeting.

Upcoming events:

- Fairfax County Restoration Project Quarterly Meeting, February 21st, 2013
- Friends of Lake Accotink Park Meeting, Feb. 21st, 2013 –Speaker – Danielle Wynne, DPWES
- Eco Art Show, Feb. 28–March 24, 2013, ArtSpace Falls Church,
- FACC/FLAP Stream Monitoring, March 9th, 2013
- Friends of Lake Accotink Park Meeting, March 21st, 2013 –Speaker – Don Waye, EPA, regarding TMDL
- Potomac Watershed Cleanup, Saturdays, April 6th – May 4th

Philip Latasa

Friends of Accotink Creek