



## Friends of Accotink Creek Leadership Town Meeting

August 19, 2013

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

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### **Present:**

Kris Unger  
Philip Latasa  
Flint Webb  
Suzy Foster  
Sandy Collins  
Roger Diedrich  
Rick Rio – Welcome Rick!

### **Upcoming events:**

- Friends of Lake Accotink Park Meeting, August 22, 2013
- Wakefield Run Plant Rescues, Wednesdays in August & beyond?
- Americana Park Site Meeting, Sept. 4<sup>th</sup>
- Stream Monitoring, Lake Accotink Park, Sept 14<sup>th</sup>
- [International Coastal Cleanup](#), weekends in Sept. & Oct.
- NVCC Watershed Workshop Oct 5<sup>th</sup>

### **Subjects Discussed –**

#### **Reports:**

##### • Wakefield Run Restoration

Golden Shovel: Suzy reported on the July 24<sup>th</sup> “golden shovel” groundbreaking ceremony. About thirty guests attended, including several from FACC. Abby Sternberg produced a video of the event, which is on the Wakefield Run page of our website.

Plant/Fish Rescue: Philip is proceeding with rescues Wednesdays in August, and may continue into September, pending confirmation from NVSWCD of when construction might begin. Plants have gone to Nottoway and Rutherford Parks in our own watershed, as well as Wolf Trap National Park. A couple hundred plants are stored at Liz’s house for return to Wakefield Run. Fish rescue is still a goal, but will require working with the contractors near the date of construction to determine how to proceed.

Fairfax Master Naturalist Hike: Kris is on schedule for the hike along Wakefield Run Sept. 7<sup>th</sup>.

##### • International coastal Cleanup:

Cleanups begin Sept. 7<sup>th</sup> right after the Wakefield Run hike and continue weekends until Oct 26<sup>th</sup>. We are skipping Sept. 14<sup>th</sup> and Oct. 5<sup>th</sup>, to avoid conflict with stream monitoring and the NVCC Watershed Workshop.

Philip asked if we should plan another post-cleanup “thank you” gathering, as was done in spring. After discussion, the consensus was to wait until spring when we may expect more volunteers.

Suzy noted the new location of the Rebuild Warehouse is near the Fullerton Road cleanup site. She will contact them about possible collaboration.

As always, leaders are welcomed to assist with cleanups. Kris suggested changing “leader” to the less-daunting “host” in our appeals to volunteers and Philip will make the change.

Philip noted that volunteers are being encouraged to learn the words to the cleanup anthem posted on our cleanup page and then perform for the camera at cleanups. Philip also mentioned Heather will be contacting the Fairfax Juggling club for interest in creating a trash juggling video during cleanups.

• Grant Proposal –

501c3: Suzy received a letter from the IRS confirming receipt of our application. Rick shared some insights from his experience dealing with these applications while at the IRS and advised us to expect a wait of some months.

Lecture series: Suzy outlined possible topics:

- Stormwater Ordinance – Flint has arranged speakers for the Providence District Council and will invite them to participate.
- Wakefield Run – Kris is developing this topic along with the planned hike.
- Native vs. Invasive Planting – Suzy will work with the Master Gardeners to create a plan using her home as an example.
- Stormwater Devices at Home – Suzy and Roger are aware of some homes which may serve as examples.
- Composting – Ted will develop this topic upon his return.
- RPA’s – Bill has offered to speak on this topic.

Roger will query Mantua Civic Association on what topics might be preferred.

Community Initiative: Kris is in touch with Annandale High School Green Atoms environmental club, but is awaiting transition of the faculty advisor. He may begin with a Wakefield Run walk and build upon that. Philip asked if there is a grant deadline and Kris advised the grantor is quite flexible.

• Stormwater Ordinance Meetings:

The final stakeholders’ meeting took place recently and now the proposal goes on to the Planning Commission. Among details yet to be resolved are possible relaxation of maximum buildable areas and whether the county should accept the Virginia list of BMP’s or develop its own.

• Northern Virginia Community College Initiatives:

Kris has discovered he will not be available Oct. 5<sup>th</sup>. FACC has responsibility for the opening and closing sessions of 45 – 50 minutes each. Suzy is recruiting a speaker for the opening session, most likely a representative of the new Mosaic District to describe their approach to stormwater control.

For the closing session, Kris is thinking about several FACC speakers briefly describing topics.

Suggestions included:

- Vivian – Nottoway Park
- Liz – Monitoring
- Roger – DIY rain garden
- Suzy’s neighbors – home dry well

- Acknowledging the great array of contributions/talents of the volunteers who participate in our events, leadership team, and at their homes for the good of our watershed.

Kris will push forward on recruitment, as the date is nearing.

There was consensus to encourage cleanup volunteers to attend.

- TMDL:

We have not had an actual response to our earlier letter on the topic of a new TMDL. Brief discussion concluded Kris should go ahead and send out Philip's draft letter, without objection.

- I-66 Environmental Impact Statement:

The mass transit options have been returned to the proposal. The EIP Tier 2 is pending.

- Braddock Civic Association Summit:

Braddock District will host a summit of civic associations Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup>. There was discussion of FACC being represented or at least having flyers available. No action was decided.

- Thirsty Duck:

Bill has offered FACC a unit of the stormwater facility enhancement device he represents, Thirsty Duck, with an eye toward use at the Layton Hall development. [Upon mention of the Thirsty Duck, Rick's "quack quack" ringtone sounded. A sign from above?] Kris will contact Judy Fraser, who has some familiarity with Layton Hall, with the aim of drafting a letter to Fairfax City and the engineer, Dewberry. Roger will contact a Fairfax City smart growth group.

Some puzzlement in the group about how to proceed led Kris to muse about a nocturnal guerilla action to install the device, perhaps enlisting the secret aid of APOC\*, and leaving the message "The Duck has Struck". The group responded with general mirth.

\*(Accotink Phalanx of Observant Citizens?)



- Americana Site Meeting:

DPWES is arranging a site meeting Sept. 4<sup>th</sup> at 10 AM to discuss stormwater controls in conjunction with the proposed paving of a Cross County Trail segment. FACC had earlier urged the paving be avoided or mitigated by stormwater controls. However, the current DPWES proposal is only for a wet meadow in a currently mown area.

Philip noted he hopes to leverage the meeting to call attention to an adjacent problem, the ad hoc and deteriorating 236/CCT connection north of 236. He also noted the imminent completion of the Annandale-to-CCT pedestrian connection on the south side, and the desirability of some sort of ribbon

cutting event. This touches upon the proposed Annandale Green Streets project. The district trails coordinator may be a resource.

*Philip Latasa*

**Friends of Accotink Creek**