



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 – October 18, 2022

Next Meeting: November 15, 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](#).)

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Present: Gary Bangs, Sandy Collins, Avril Garland, Tony Hill, Philip Latasa, Beverly Rivera, all via on-line meeting.

Opportunities to represent FACC:

[Bat Conservation Presentation](#), October 26, 2022: We are cosponsors of this presentation, although our only contribution was to accept an invitation to add our name. Glenda has suggested we may want to make FACC announcements. Perhaps relate to Cinder Bed Road Bikeway and the loss of potential endangered bat habitat there?

[Wisteria Workdays](#), October 10 & 31, 2022: Due to some miscommunication, we nearly didn't show up for a repeat workday by a company group from Accenture on October 10th. Everything worked out, though, and we had eight volunteers turned out and the Park Authority provided herbicide support.

We are still scheduled for an open to the public workday on October 31st. We discussed places to post announcements, such as churches, and The Connection. Philip has posted the notice in Volunteer Fairfax. (NOTE: Wear your Halloween costume if you can join us.)



Accenture Volunteers arrayed in the woods of the Accotink Gorge

[Active Fairfax Hearing](#), November 1, 2022: Philip had just heard of this: Our sister group, Friends of Little Hunting Creek, plans to testify at the Board of Supervisors hearing, presumably to urge that new paved trails be kept out of forests and floodplains. We should support them. Philip will get more information and share with the core.

[International Coastal Cleanup](#): Our volunteers collected 232 bags of trash, and junk ranging from shopping carts to squash racquets. We only found one tire, though. Since our Fullerton Road site is now fenced off, we need a replacement location for spring. Ideas are welcome. Philip offered a few possibilities, such as:

- Hallman Street
- Villa Lee Park
- East Blake Lane Park next to supervisor's office
- Pine Ridge Park (but Nature Conservancy is doing it – cooperate?)
- Annandale Park/Manassas Gap Park – cooperation with Annandale Greenway?
- Prosperity Ave
- Alban Road
- Midway point in Wakefield Park
- Midway point between Lake Accotink Park and Byron Ave Park

[Americana Drive Construction Trash Dump](#): Our cleanup is still scheduled for Veterans Day, November 11th. This is more than just another cleanup, but we aspire to raise community awareness and responsibility for halting the appalling level of dumping that occurs here, mostly by the very residents. The Annandale Rotary Club is collaborating with us. Anyone able to help make a difference is really needed.

FACC Subjects of Interest Discussion:

[Joint Park Authority Budget Letter](#): FACC was a cosigner of a letter to the Park Authority Board urging increased funding for natural resources and filling all authorized resource management positions.

[Water Caltrop Control](#): The Park Authority has yet to organize another water caltrops control workday, although we are told it may yet happen. Is anyone interested in doing our own? We would do what we can from watercraft, rather than attempt to dig our way through the mud (One of our members was injured by sharp debris that penetrated his waders.) We also talked about an outing to search for water caltrops in Accotink Bay. Dave offered to provide a kayak to paddle with Philip [the outing is scheduled for Nov 6].

[Long Branch Central Project](#): At the October 7th Long Branch Central preservation design team meeting Philip pressed for the public outreach portion of the project to be reinvigorated. There was some encouraging talk in that regard and indications that the separate outreach stakeholder group will resume meetings. Anyone who feels they have any aptitude for public outreach is encouraged to represent FACC in those meetings. There should not be a single property owner or manager in the watershed who is not aware of the project, the motivation for it, and opportunities to contribute.

Bryan Campbell could not join tonight, but offered three steps we should work on:

- 1) Advertise the next public meeting so the neighborhoods cannot say they didn't have an opportunity for the County to hear their voice.
- 2) After the public meeting, get the Public Outreach & Education group back together to start talking about goals and framework of implementation plans. One such goal would be finding partners for projects outside the streambed.
- 3) More of a long term goal of attending and supporting the project within the community, which means possibly attending Civic Association Meetings

The design group will meet again Nov. 14th. There will be a public meeting about Dec. 12th.

Also at the meeting, we learned there had been a water main break near Willow Woods Park causing 300+ dead fish.

[Virginia Conservation Assistance Program \(VCAP\)](#): Along the lines of public outreach, we learned the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation district is targeting the watershed for its, which provides financial assistance for private watershed friendly projects.

Vienna Swim Club: *Avril* is speaking at their Fall board meeting next Saturday about switching to electric lawn equipment. ('in' is the on-going habitat restoration there by FACC

[Spicewood Court Properties](#): We now know who the buyer is, an entity called [MSB Property Management](#), recently formed, probably for the purpose of this purchase. The intentions of the buyer are unknown, but The Northern Virginia Conservation Trust is still checking.

[INOVA Acquisition](#): Philip noted (also noting this has no current watershed implications) that INOVA has purchased a 35 acre, 1500 unit apartment complex on Gallows Road immediately north of Fairfax Hospital on Gallows Road. This is in the Accotink Creek watershed: In case re-purposing the land is forthcoming, we should keep track.

Gateway Park Wetlands Restoration: On October 11th, a presentation to the Fairfax City Council outlined plans for a wetlands restoration in [Gateway Park](#). This is a small park on the banks of Accotink Creek managed by the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority. Most of the park is currently mown grass, much of it very wet anyway. About ½ acre would be restored to wetlands. Of course, there must always be more asphalt, in the form of a parking area and educational trails. Construction should begin in 2024.



Donations: We received donations of:

- \$2.50 from the PayPal Giving Fund
- \$24.38 from the AmazonSmile Foundation covering the period April 1 to June 30
- \$3000 from Riggs Cove Foundation, which also gave us \$2000 last year.

Whither FACC:

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

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

