

New Hope Creek Corridor Advisory Committee, Minutes of Meeting of September 8, 2005

Present: Walter Fowler, Bill Hutchins, John Kent, Bob Healy, Bill Olive, Hildegard Ryals

Sally Robertson, our webmaster, has asked via email for input on current and former members of the NHCCAC (Healy will supply) and for material for essays on individual sections of the Creek. Committee members are encouraged to submit descriptive paragraphs, data (water quality) and photos of parts of the Creek with which they are familiar.

H. Ryals asked whether old Ken Coulter maps or newer GIS maps were most suitable for the website. She has copies of the Coulter overall plan map, a map of watershed overlay zones for Jordan Lake and a map with location of proposed parks and access points.

Question raised as to whether our concern should extend north of Hwy 86 in Orange County. Current extent of defined New Hope corridor is 13 miles, starting from where New Hope Creek first appears on maps. J. Kent raised issue of construction of a trail from Duke Forest to Jordan Lake.

J. Kent noted that sediment has been recently found in tributaries of the creek downstream from Patterson Place and Carillon developments. County authorities are aware of these. J. Kent also noted that City of Durham has done a poor job of preventing sewage spills due to roots or grease buildup in pipes.

H. Ryals noted increased emphasis in North Carolina on protecting drinking water and asked that NHCCAC increase its activities in this area.

Need to clarify relation among TLC, NHCCAC and a revived Friends of New Hope Creek and increase interactions among them. W. Fowler is working on reviving Friends group. He suggested two meetings—one at Leigh Farm, convenient to Durham residents, the other at (for example) Johnson Mill, convenient to Orange Co. residents. Need to get notices of events in TLC newsletter. Curtis Booker could be helpful in arranging a Leigh Farm meeting. Fowler will contact Doug Nichols of TLC for help in organizing these events, ideally in Fall, so as to take advantage of the energy raised during the Erwin Tract campaign and demonstrate that New Hope Creek has resources and opportunities for projects along its entire length.

It was noted the Durham Parks and Recreation has not done anything to date to develop Leigh Farm, and some buildings are deteriorating. B. Olive suggested that one of the

houses at Leigh Farm might be converted to a museum to house artifacts owned by Curtis Booker.

H. Ryals brought up need for NHCCAC letterhead. Should member names appear on it, or does this require too frequent updating. It was suggested that W. Fowler's recent cardinal flower photo could be used as the basis for temporary, computer generated stationery.

Next New Hope Creek Corridor Advisory Committee meeting, Oct. 13 (2nd Thursday) 5 pm at Sandy Creek Park picnic shelter. This will allow the committee to get to know Sandy Creek Park's problems and opportunities for use.