

New Hope Creek Corridor Advisory Committee Minutes of Meeting of February 9, 2006

Attending: John Kent, Walter Fowler, Jud Edeburn, Sally Robertson, John Goebel, Charlie Welch, Bob Healy, Carolyn & Wade Penny (landowners), Wendy Jacobs, Dave Cook (Forest View School), Bill Olive, Julian Coulton (Trinity School), Hildegard Ryals

Cook observed that Forest View officials (Ronnie Winston, vice-principal; David Wiggins, administrative director) do not know that we have permission to use the media room for meetings. Ryals will show them our letter of permission from Durham Schools downtown office.

Jacobs showed the Committee a print of a painting of Hollow Rock Store, as it appeared in 1945. Historian David Southern has estimated the original building to be at least 100 years old. The store has been “rediscovered” in a yard not far away, where it was moved more than 30 years ago. It has been used as a pottery studio and for storage, and is in good condition save for some roof damage. The original store counter still exists. Olive, who noted that he had slept in the store one night at age 10 (in 1931), raised the possibility of giving the present owners a new pre-fab building in exchange for the store. This is a project that will likely take place several years in the future, where a park/access point is built for Hollow Rock access. In the meantime, the building may need stabilization and some repair. Jacobs will follow up with the owners. Robertson will put photos of the store taken by Duncan Heron, as well as a link to a historical essay, on the NHCCAC website, but will not refer to current location of the store except to say (if the owner permits) that the building still exists at an off-site location. Robertson has been constantly adding material to the website <http://www.newhopecreek.org> and members are encouraged to continue to submit items to her.

The Committee discussed a possible path/bikeway from Forest View School to New Hope Creek. It was noted that there is a bikeway on the shoulder of Erwin Rd. in Orange County, but Durham merely has a sign asking motorists to “Be Nice to Bicyclists” (!). It was noted that any bikeway usable by students would have to be physically separated from Erwin Rd. A key need is providing a safe way to cross Erwin. Committee members were invited to send comments to the Durham Bike/Pedestrian Commission, and to participate in its Feb. 28 workshop. Kent, Ryals and Healy will participate in a Feb. 15 teacher workday (10-12 am) and solicit ideas regarding a suitable pedestrian route. Edeburn will provide Healy with a map of the immediate area that can be used for this purpose.

The Committee discussed the proposed Trinity School expansion. It appears that the proposed soccer field, which is partially on the floodway fringe, will not interfere with future trail construction. However, concern was expressed over possible runoff of fertilizers or herbicides that would be used to maintain the field. Coulton will bring this up with the relevant Trinity School committee. It was noted that Kent’s Stream Watch monitors nutrients in water, and that this might be a good project for Trinity students or

perhaps even for some sort of joint Trinity/Forest View activity. Also discussed was a 10+ acre nature preserve along the New Hope owned and managed by Trinity School.

Kent noted that the last Stream Watch found considerable runoff from both the Indigo Corners and Carillon development sites. More county inspectors may be helpful in keeping watch on these impacts. Jacobs said she will be bringing before the Durham Planning Commission a proposed UDO (Unified Development Ordinance) standard for cumulative impact on watersheds. Kent said that Chapel Hill's current procedures could be a good model.

Healy showed maps of the area around Indigo Corners. There are half a dozen remaining private parcels between that development and the county land closer to the creek. He said that these should be monitored carefully and we should try to work with landowners to protect New Hope resources. He raised the possibility of contacting Indigo Corners about making modifications to the parking around part of Phase 6 of the project—parking on the plan, which has significant impact on the NH slope, is higher than that required by city-county planning standards.

The committee discussed future treatment of the unpaved portion of Pickett Rd. and its relation to the general planning of the Hollow Rock access point. Jacobs said that the only planning to date is work on an interlocal agreement among the jurisdictions involved. There has also been progress on the land sales in both Orange and Durham counties. Jacobs said that a stakeholder group will be formed when actually planning for the area takes place. The Committee considered and unanimously approved the following motion, made by Wade Penny: "The NCHHAC goes on record as incorporating the existing dirt portion of Pickett Rd. as an integral part of the New Hope plan and in furtherance of that end asks that through vehicular traffic on that road be eliminated".

Goebel asked that the Committee remember the next cycle of DOST matching grants, and consider applying for a Forest View-New Hope bike/ped connection or other project.

A New Hope event/celebration will take place on Earth Day, Saturday, April 22 at Leigh Farm. Ryals and Fowler will meet to start planning.

The next meeting of the Committee will be (2nd Thurs) on March 9 at 5 pm at Forest View School (Media Center).

Additions and corrections welcome (healy@duke.edu). Also welcome are items for agenda of March 9 meeting.