

New Hope Creek Corridor Advisory Committee—Minutes of Meeting April 13, 2006

(Present: Fowler, Goebel, Healy, Kent, Olive, Ryals, Shaw, Welch)

- (1) Healy reported on organization of Durham committee for Land for Tomorrow, a statewide effort to put a \$1 billion bond issue for acquisition of land of natural or cultural value on the Nov. 2006 ballot. Kate Dixon, now based at the Durham office of The Nature Conservancy, is head of the statewide effort. An organizational meeting for the Durham chapter was held two weeks ago—Tom Krakauer and Denise Barnes are co-chairs. UNC doctoral student Carla Norwood is making a 5 minute film on land conservation success stories in Durham County and will almost certainly include New Hope material. Healy has been working with her to get the NH photos and other resources she needs. Healy will also get Land for Tomorrow material to hand out at the April 21 Duke Earth Day festival and our own April 23 Leigh Farm event.

Olive observed that the private sector (e.g. major banks) could be very important in cooperating with Land for Tomorrow.

- (2) The Leigh Farm event was discussed. Ryals reported that flyers have been mailed to the TLC list. A number of flyers were given out to committee members. They will be distributed at Duke Earth Day, April 21 and Durham Earth Day, April 22. Ryals asked for volunteers for various tasks. A key need is for more musicians.
- (3) Kent said he had called Jane Korest regarding the paintball field behind Funtasia (Garrett Rd.) but had not heard back.
- (4) Kent discussed some issue connected with the proposed trail between Mud Creek and Sandy Creek. He said that Dale McKeel, a person long interested in land use, is a member of the Church of the Good Shepherd (east side of Garrett Rd.) and would be a good contact. Kent also noted the need to get a trail easement on the Garrett Homestead tract (former CENTEX proposal) on west side of Garrett Rd. when it next comes up for rezoning.
- (5) Liz Pullman is involved in monitoring a development adjacent to Corps land on Scott King Rd., off highway 751. This is south of our planning area, but the fate of this development is of interest to us because the Corps is seeking a 100 ft. buffer that would separate any housing from its own land, on which hunting is allowed. Kent distributed copies of a Corps letter on this issue.

- (6) Shaw discussed an effort by Orange County to acquire land on the east side of the New Hope, just south of Trinity School. There was discussion of possible Indian mounds and other historic features that may be found in the New Hope corridor. Tom Magnuson, of Trading Path Assn., has applied for a federal grant to do archeological work in the area. The importance of keeping exact locations of possible archeological sites confidential was discussed.

- (7) Shaw has contacted Kristin Knight, of KCI Engineering, which is doing wetland restoration, under a state Department of Transportation wetland banking program, on a tract owned by the Brown family on the east side of Mt. Moriah Rd. Ms. Knight will speak about this project at our next meeting.

Next meeting, Thursday, May 11 at 5 pm at Forest View Elementary.