

New Hope Creek Corridor Advisory Committee

Minutes of Meeting of June 12, 2008

Present: Berndt, Fowler, Kent, Healy, Harrison, Youngblood, Welch

Visitors: Bob Zumwalt (J.R. McAdams Co.), George Bucholz (biologist/consultant), Howard Williams (attorney), Craigie Sanders (attorney), Mr. Wang (landowner)

(1) Update on Hollow Rock area planning. Welch reported that the latest meeting of the Hollow Rock Area planning committee had more discussion of closing Pickett Road to through traffic. Advantages of road closing include avoiding rapidly moving cars within the park, limiting dust clouds raised by cars, and providing a possible parking area. The latter is especially desirable, given increased recognition of archeological constraints to building on the park site. However, the fate of the road closing is still undecided, with additional fact gathering taking place. The Hollow Rock group then divided into smaller groups, charged with coming up with alternative development visions for the area. More work will be done on this at the June 30 meeting.

(2) Planning for tract at north side of intersection of Mt. Moriah Rd. (SW Durham Parkway) and 15-501. Bob Zumwalt, landscape architect with John R. McAdams Company, said that he had been engaged to do design work on a 7 acre tract at the north side of the intersection of 15-501 and Mt. Moriah Rd. (new alignment) for use as an automobile dealership. The tract is part of a much larger parcel owned by Mr. Wong and his associates. Harrison noted that steep slopes toward the rear of the property would make construction difficult (noting the infamous retaining wall behind New Hope Commons) and noted that the site has large canopy trees. There is also an intermittent stream on the property. Healy raised the question of access from 15-501. A road is to be built at the rear of the site, which will have to tie into roads serving Indigo Corners and future developments on 15-501. Healy noted the amount of pavement required to park large numbers of new cars and asked that innovative solutions be considered to reduce runoff. He also suggested that lighting fixtures avoid illuminating the night sky. Youngblood observed that Durham now requires new developments to reduce upward light leakage. There was further discussion of access to the site and its relation to the larger parcels in the same ownership. Healy mentioned the NHCCACs long term goal of a bike/walking path connecting Chapel Hill to Durham. Zumwalt asked about the origins of the NH natural area buffer in the area. Harrison replied that it was based on vegetation types.

(3) Report on Turkey Farm Rd. bridge lawsuit and recently negotiated consent decree (Healy/Kent). After court-ordered mediation, an agreement was reached with NC Division of Water Quality and NC Department of Transportation. It provides for a "field meeting" to be held July 11, which will bring together biologists with state employees working on the bridge project to discuss design and construction issues, particularly with regard to protecting the endangered mussels in the stream.

Other business. Kent mentioned that Terraserver.microsoft.com offers a new mapping resource that may be helpful for the New Hope and other planning efforts.

Next meeting July 10, 2008.