

New Hope Creek Corridor Advisory Committee

Minutes of Meeting of Dec. 11, 2008

(Present: Bridgwater, Kent, Healy, Goebel, Welch)

- (1) **Explorations for Trail Planning.** The Committee is sponsoring a hike along the Durham side of the main stem of the New Hope (Dec. 14, 9 am, meet at defunct Mexican restaurant at Oak Creek Shopping Center, Garrett Rd. at 15-501) between Hollow Rock and 15-501, for the purpose of identifying a trail route. We have invited members of DOST, Chapel Hill Trails and Greenways, and the Sierra Club to join us.

- (2) **Update on Turkey Farm Road Bridge.** Kent reported that demolition and construction is scheduled to begin January 12, 2009. He has been in contact with Trish Patterson, whose property is close to one upstream corner of the bridge. She has said that we can cross her land to inspect construction and stream impacts. Longest has installed an automatic camera on the site. He also took baseline photos of the mussel bed and stream. The state has not yet formally agreed to using a rock pad for equipment and installing a net to catch demolition debris. Longest has communicate in writing to NCDOT about this. Kent mentioned the breaching of a dam upstream at Camp New Hope that released a large amount of sediment to the stream. This has now settled, but it is likely to be further washed down by a major rain event. Kent is tracking turbidity changes that may result. Kent also said that he is working with Orange County on a personal GPS system that is consistent with the North Carolina state planning system, which uses plane coordinates rather than latitude and longitude.

- (3) **Automobile Dealership at 15-501 near Mt. Moriah Rd.** No representative of the applicant was present, so we do not have enough information about response to our suggestions from last meeting to be able to vote on a formal letter. Healy indicated that the developer's site planner had told him over the phone that they believe they have acceptable responses to all of our concerns except for extending the frontage road so that the orphan parcel on Durham side of the project will have legal access from the front. Apparently the city traffic engineer would not agree to this.

Healy said that in the phone conversation, they discussed the waste of resources involved in building a sidewalk at the front of this project. Might the sidewalk be built elsewhere, for example along Erwin Rd. so as to give foot access to the Hollow Rock area from Forest View Elementary. This is an idea perhaps best raised at City Council level.

- (4) Kent mentioned the controversy about the Jordan Lake flood pool measurement. County is considering accepting a new measurement done by a developer, rather

than spending 90K to do its own. Healy said that the issue is important, but was reluctant to have the NHCCAC comment on an issue outside its own planning area. It was agreed that Healy will send a comment asking for a county funded study, under the auspices of the Friends of New Hope Creek, rather than the NHCCAC.

- (5) Healy mentioned receiving an inquiry about canoeing or kayaking on the New Hope below Hollow Rock.
- (6) Goebel said that DOST has received a draft of the trails and greenways plan revision for Durham prepared by Planning Staff.

NEXT MEETING JANUARY 8 AT 5 PM