

New Hope Creek Corridor Advisory Committee

Minutes of Meeting of February 10, 2012

(Present: Berndt, Fowler, Healy, Welch, Kent, Ed Harrison, Bo Howes, Brendan Moore, Helen Fischer, Stan Bukowski)

- (1) Sandy Creek Park. Goebel reported (to general acclaim) that the bridge has been completed, including the handicap access ramp. He said that heavy new gates have been installed at park entrance. Goebel and Welch are closing the park at sunset in an effort to reduce vandalism. Goebel said that the city was requiring various permits for the wildlife observation platform we intend to build. He said that if a 35 ft. setback from wetlands was required the whole project would not be feasible, since it would not allow birders to get close enough to see wildlife.

Healy said he had attended the first city-wide organizational meeting for Creek Week 2012, which will be held March 17 to March 24. He proposed two major New Hope activities, both at Sandy Creek Park, a stream clean-up on March 17 (the date of clean-ups citywide and a March 24 “Bird and Butterfly Festival.” He suggested that we organize ourselves by designating individuals to take responsibility for specific parts of these activities, with the idea that this did not mean doing the work themselves, but making sure that it got done. It also provides a way for referring volunteers to specific tasks in an efficient way.

March 17 Stream Cleanup at Sandy Creek—John Goebel

March 24 (9 am to 1 pm) – Bird and Butterfly Festival at Sandy Creek Park

Coordination with Durham Creek Week effort—Healy—next meeting Feb. 15

Bird and Butterfly Walks – Bo Howes (he will solicit help from Jeff Pippen, Randy Neighbarger and others)

Water Quality Testing Demonstration – John Kent

Environmental Education Activities for Children – Healy, with help from Nicholas School students and materials from Durham Parks and Rec.

Planting of shade trees by benches—Alex Johnson (need holes dug)

Replacement of butterfly garden—Goebel, with Rosetta Radtke

Radon Exhibit and Distribution of Free Home Radon Test Kits—NC DENR (Healy)

Building of bluebird houses—Cub Scouts (Goebel)

Geology of New Hope Creek Area Exhibit—Helen Fischer and Stan Bukowski (with help from Howard Lineberger?)

TLC Exhibit—Howes (if TLC wishes to do so)

Suzuki Childrens Violin Group (Healy will check)

(2) Naming bridge at Sandy Creek after Ken Coulter. Healy said that naming of features in Durham parks was done not by City Council but by a committee that meets in April and October. He passed around the attached draft resolution, which received general approval. He will prepare a final resolution for NHCCAC vote at the March meeting. Healy said there was a real opportunity to use new bar code technology (a sign readable with any smart phone would refer to any URL. That website could contain information about Ken Coulter, including for example, the 2-3 minute segment of the 2007 film on NC Landscape Architecture pioneers in which Ken describes his work at Sandy Creek.

(3) Update on TTA LRT Corridor. Healy said that TTA had proposed corrections to the minutes of the last meeting, which have been incorporated in the attached document. Harrison said that Orange County commission has voted 5-2 to move the LRT project ahead. On Feb. 8, the Metropolitan Planning Organization voted to approve the overall project. The next step will be a “scoping” process that precedes preparation of the required environmental impact statement, and is intended to identify the issues with which the EIS will deal. This will take approximately two months. Healy said that the comments submitted by NHCCAC should be a good first step with regard to New Hope issues. It was suggested that we also submit a list of more general questions regarding environmental impacts just to make sure that the whole scope of impacts will be considered. Kent expressed concern that TTA might define the northern boundary of the New Hope crossing alternatives in such a way as to stop at the edge of the 15-501 right-of-way, rather than include it. Healy said that the minutes of the January meeting clearly state that TTA considers the alternative routing suggested by the NHCCAC, which did include intrusion into the right of way, to be part of the routing alternatives that will be analyzed and that Bill Houppermans said he would “guarantee that your [NHCCAC] proposed alignment is worthy of consideration.” [See attached minutes of January 12 meeting.]

(4) Officers. Charlie Welch was elected co-chair of the NHCCAC, to serve along with Bob Healy.

(5) Berndt said that Chapel Hill is continuing to work on both a revision of its trails plan and of its open space plan. She also announced that Chapel Hill Greenways Commission is putting on a hike on the Dry Creek trail on February 18, 11 am to 1 pm. Please see information at following link <http://www.townofchapelhill.org/index.aspx?page=15&recordid=4334>

Resolution to Name the Bridge in Sandy Creek Park in Honor of Kenneth Coulter

Whereas, Kenneth R. Coulter was for four decades a prominent landscape architect and planner in Durham;

Whereas, Kenneth Coulter had been named a “Fellow” of the American Association of Landscape Architects, a national recognition for his work;

Whereas Kenneth Coulter was the principal author of the 1992 New Hope Creek Corridor Plan and played a major role in the first decade of its implementation, including persuading the City of Durham to set aside surplus land as Sandy Creek Park;

Whereas Kenneth Coulter and his associates prepared the plan for Sandy Creek Park and this park was one of the proudest accomplishments of his later career;

Whereas Kenneth Coulter was honored in 2007 for his overall body of work by the North Carolina Association of Landscape Architects as a “North Carolina Pioneer of Landscape Architecture” (one of three persons so named) and, during an interview filmed as part of this designation, spoke at length about his work at Sandy Creek Park;

Whereas Kenneth Coulter passed away in December 2009;

Whereas this resolution has the support of Mr. Coulter’s family (see attached letter)*;

Therefore let it be resolved that the former truck bridge over Sandy Creek, within the boundaries of the Park and now converted to a foot bridge connecting the two major sections of the Park, be named “Kenneth Coulter Sandy Creek Bridge” and appropriate signage installed and maintained.

*Healy will contact Dan Jewell about how to best approach Ken’s family

