

New Hope Creek Corridor Advisory Committee

Minutes of Meeting of May 8, 2014

(Present: Goebel, Fowler, Healy, Welch, Kent, Korest, Youngblood, Harrison, Allan Dippy (Bike/Ped), Catherine Baer (Triangle Land Conservancy), Max Arnold (new resident), Terry Rekweg. The following from Triangle Transit Authority and consultants: Bill Houppermans, Jeff Weisner, Megan McCoy, Brandon Fulton, Brad Schulz, Steven Crockett, Tammy Bouchelle.)

(1) Welch announced that John Goebel had just last week won a major award of recognition from the Volunteer Center of Durham County. In addition to a plaque from the local entity, he received a state recognition for his work at Sandy Creek. Interestingly, the plaque was presented by Larry Stogner, who noted after the presentation how often he uses the park and how pleased he is with all the improvements he has seen. Well done, John!

(2) Sandy Creek Park. Healy and Goebel are making slow progress on interpretive signs. They have identified subjects, locations and a person or person to do each sign. Goebel has demonstrated that the QR codes added to signs actually work by constructing a sample website to which QR codes direct. At the moment they are working on prototypes: Goebel on birds, Healy on watersheds. Goebel reports that the grill will be installed by a Boy Scout within a month. Lots of birders have been seen in the park during this migratory high point. And there have been lots of volunteers spreading mulch and planting bird and butterfly friendly vegetation.

Healy said he had met the head of Occupational/Physical Therapy for Duke Hospital and would try to get him involved in the ADA features. Goebel said that Stuart Engineering, which has done much work in Durham, would like to do something in the park for their 25th anniversary. He suggested that they do a plan for an unpaved ADA trail. Goebel added that recently a handicapped man from Durham Regent was brought to the park by a van from that community.

(3) Hollow Rock Park. Fowler said that the Sue Whitfield family had sold their entire collection of farm implements and other things that might be displayed in the old store to friends of the park. Korest said that design work on pedestrian bridges (to be paid for by the recent grant) was moving along. She suggested that an appropriate name for the park might be Hollow Rock Natural Area at New Hope Preserve. Healy said that "cultural" might be added to natural to reflect the store, Native American land use, and

Colonial roads. Kent suggested a larger area than the New Hope Preserve might be called New Hope Watershed. There was a discussion of New Hope resources, including mussels, otters and shellbark hickory.

- (4) Judd Edeburn is retiring after 35 years at Duke. He will be replaced by Sarah Childs and Duke Forest will continue to send a representative to this committee.
- (5) A visit to the New Hope Bottomlands in Chapel Hill Road Park was recently made by Brendan Moore, John Kent, Ed Harrison and several of the environmental consultants to TTA. TTA wishes to do core drillings down to 40-50 feet to determine construction feasibility. Entry would be made with a tractor-sized motorized vehicle and care would be taken to avoid sensitive areas and times when the area is very wet.
- (6) TTA gave a presentation (copy of PowerPoints attached) on its work to date on the draft Environmental Impact Statement. The draft EIS will include some engineering studies for cost estimation. The draft EIS will be released in April 2015, with the goal of a final EIS by February 2016 and projected system opening in 2026. Stakeholder meeting will be held in November 2014. NHCCAC reiterated its desire that the EIS include information on construction impacts as well as those of the system itself.