

New Hope Creek Corridor Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
November 18, 2004

Present:

Hildegard Ryals (Chair), Bo Glenn (DOST Liaison), Chris Bouton (DOST), Bill Hutchins, Walter Fowler (Landowner), Judd Ederberg (Duke), Prof. Bob Healey (Duke), Sarah Langarden (Duke Student), John Kent (Advisor), Wendy Jacobs (EANG), Sally Robertson, Trish Smith (Sierra Club), Karen Collins (EANG). Muriel Easterling (Secretary) was not in attendance.

-Discussion of NHCCAC Letterhead.

Hildegard reported a need to revisit and update the NHCCAC listing of Officers (Chair, Co-Chair and Secretary); Committee members and Advisor/ Consultants. Basically the Committee is comprised of elected officials from the four jurisdictions of City of Durham, Durham County, Chapel Hill and Orange County including representatives of relevant greenway or open space commissions; landowners from the four jurisdictions within the New Hope Creek Corridor, and faculty from Duke University including Duke Forest. Since membership has changed and new advisors, landowners and organizations have shown support for NHCCAC, Hildegard and other members welcome suggestions and and hope to confirm current representation of the membership structure for NHCCAC before the December meeting. Other organizations to be considered for representation: include TLC, EANG, Sierra Club, New Hope, Forestry or Planning students from Duke, UNC or NCCU, Audubon. NHCCAC letterhead will then be updated accordingly.

-NHCCAC Meeting Schedule

It has been recommended that the regular monthly NHCCAC meeting day be changed, if possible, to the second Thursday of each month. The time will remain the same at 5:15pm. Pending the membership update, this will be put on the agenda for the December meeting.

-Erwin Area Neighborhood Group (EANG) report on status of Erwin Trace

Hildegard reported that the NHCCAC RESOLUTION supporting EANG in their effort to stop the purchase of the former Duke Forest tract by Crosland for the development of Erwin Trace was submitted to the offices of each of the four jurisdictions. The Erwin Trace plan was taken off of the Durham City/County DRB and was given a 120-day stay of execution. It was noted that the DRB still had this item on their agenda posted on the Durham website for November 18, but that NHCCAC and EANG were not aware of this.

NHCCAC and EANG believe that the tract in question is stated in the 2030 Master Plan as a targeted acquisition. Keith Luck, Durham Planning Dept., has compiled an updated document of the targeted land in the plan as of 10/04, but this parcel may still not be clearly designated as a target acquisition for NHCCAC. Bob Healey recommended we invite Keith Luck, Jane Korest, or Rich Shaw to a future NHCCAC meeting to discuss the tracts listed in the 2030 Master Plan. Hildegard agreed to do this.

Wendy Jacobs reported that EANG presented to the four jurisdictions their "Better Alternative

Plan" to preserve the proposed Erwin Trace tract for wildlife and open space as well as possible new uses. She has met with Ellen Reckow, Durham County Commissioner, for advice on other suggested uses. Wendy also reported that EANG now has the support of Durham City Council, Durham County and Orange County Commissioners, but that Crosland may still close the deal with Duke anyway regardless of the current contract. The next meeting of City Council on December 6 regarding this parcel is to consider annexation in order to bring in water/sewer.

The EANG Listserv was recommended for updates on this agenda item and a sign-up list was passed around for interested parties. Wendy requested members contact her with any ideas and educational recommendations for the EANG "Better Alternative Plan". Bo Glenn recommended emailing to NHCCAC members the document by David Southern on Old Student Road. Bo also reported that DOST will also be submitting a resolution to support EANG and NHCCAC. Judd Ederberg recommended that proposals as presented so far for right of first refusal are the best way for NHCCAC to ensure that Duke properties are made available in the future. Judd also stressed that community relations are very important for Duke property management business interests.

Notes taken by Chris Bouton. Amendments welcome and encouraged.