

**New Hope Creek Corridor Advisory Committee
Minutes
Meeting of August 11, 2005
New Hope Improvement Association Community Building**

In attendance:

**Hildegard Ryals, Friends of New Hope
Bob Healy, Friends of New Hope
Bill Hutchinson – former landowner
John Kent – New Hope Audubon Society
Billy Olive - landowner
Deb Christie – Erwin Area Neighborhood Group (EANG)
Rich Shaw – Orange County Environment and Resource Conservation Dept (Lands Legacy)
Miles Giles – Durham County Open Space Dept
Tom Stark – Durham Open Space and Trails (DOST)
Helen Youngblood (DOST staff)
Walter Fowler – landowner**

Bob Healy called the meeting to order and chaired the meeting.

1. Revitalization Committee: History of the New Hope

Billy Olive reported on his desire to write a history of the New Hope Creek Corridor, perhaps to include the following topics: Native Americans, Formation of Duke Forest, Threats to the New Hope which have been overcome, Use of the New Hope for research, Establishment of Jordan Lake and its effect on the New Hope, Sandy Creek project, Discussion of the New Hope Creek Corridor Open Space Plan, Leigh Farm, Existing and Future Threats to the New Hope. Deb Christie suggested that these would be excellent additions to the website (www.newhopecreek.org). Hildegard Ryals has a wealth of information on the New Hope which she will make available to Billy Olive.

2. Revitalization Committee: Reaffirmation of the composition of the NHCCAC

Bob Healy suggested that it may now be appropriate to confirm with the four jurisdictions which establish and sponsor the NHCCAC (Durham and Orange Counties, City of Durham and Town of Chapel Hill) the current composition and members of the NHCCAC and the mission of the NHCCAC. Such a letter could clarify, for example, that Durham Open Space and Trails (DOST) is sending 2 representatives to the NHCCAC, as the successor to the two organizations originally named in the 1992 charter of the NHCCAC (Durham County Open Space Commission and Durham City Trails and Greenways Commission, both merged into DOST). Likewise, Orange County could confirm that RPAC (Orange County

Recreation & parks Advisory Committee) sends one representative to the NHCCAC, but that it may be desirable to have another representative from the Orange County Commission on the Environment. Regardless of the official membership of the NHCCAC, it will be advantageous to keep a large number of environmental leaders in communication with the NHCCAC and welcomed to meetings of the NHCCAC.

3. Revitalization Committee: Friends of the New Hope

Walter Fowler reported on his desire to revitalize the Friends of the New Hope (FONH), which the 1992 charter designates as sending 2 representatives to the NHCCAC. A strengthened FONH could engage in fundraising, organize hikes, and conduct the public outreach, while the NHCCAC continues its review and advisory role regarding matters affecting the New Hope Creek such as bridges, additional land acquisitions (although this is almost complete), trail design and construction, etc. Hildegard Ryals offered to work with Walter on the FONH revitalization.

4. Revitalization Committee: Transition Leadership

Bob Healy offered to take over the chairmanship of the NHCCAC during the Revitalization/transition period. Next meeting of the NHCCAC will be on Thursday, September 8, 2005. Meanwhile, regarding developments in Durham County, Helen Youngblood (Senior Planner with Durham [City and County] Planning Department and DOST staff person) was requested to send notices of all proposed land developments affecting the New Hope Creek Corridor both to Bob Healy and to Hildegard Ryals at the same time they were referred to DOST for review by the DOST Development Committee (currently composed of Liz Pullman and Annette Montgomery).

5. Centex Development: Garrett Road, bordering Mud Creek

The townhouse development proposed by Centex Corporation for land on Garrett Road and bordering Mud Creek was not approved by the Durham City Council. The NHCCAC never formally reviewed the proposal, but the proposal was reviewed by a subcommittee composed of Bob Healy, Hildegard Ryals and Deb Christie, who met with Garrett Farms neighborhood leaders (Ronnie Griffin, Leah Ogden, Wilhelmina Rotella and others).

Bob Healy testified to the Durham City Council that

- the proposed Centex development was not the kind of high density project which would be appropriate for the site;**
- that there was too much impervious surface, not enough open space, and the plan called for mass grading;**

- that the existing traffic capacity would not support additional development, and it would be a mistake to anticipate additional capacity before it actually exists or is imminent;
- that there were various discussions regarding proposed trails connecting to Mud Creek, but that the trail possibilities through the Centex land to Mud Creek were not of significant importance;
- that there is no good access point for the general public;
- that any reference to land along Mud Creek is not relevant, since that land cannot be developed in any case;
- that Centex's option for land along Mud Creek actually served to prevent Garrett Farms from filing a protest petition.

6. July 25 Legislative/Local Government Tour of Duke Tract and Penny Lands

Deb Christie reported that the July 25 Legislative/Local Government Tour was a success. Press for the event was exceptional, including television coverage on the 5 and 6 o'clock news (NBC). The Durham Herald-Sun featured 3 photographs in the July 26 edition, including 2 photographs on the first page of the second section. The News & Observer also covered the event. Legislators attending were Rep. Paul Luebke, Rep. Verla Insko and Rep. Bill Faison. Local government representatives were Durham County Commissioners Becky Heron and Ellen Reckhow, Orange County Commissioners Valerie Foushee and Barry Jacobs and Durham City Council member Diane Catotti. Also in attendance were Bill Holman, Executive Director of the Clean Water Management Trust Fund, and Nan Guthrie, Field Representative of the CWMTF. Wade and Carolyn Penny attended, and tours were led by Jane Korest (Durham County Open Space), Rich Shaw (Orange County Lands Legacy) and Jeff Masten (Triangle Land Conservancy). Hildegard Ryals supplied "locopop" popsicles. Balloons and "Thank you" signs welcomed all attendees.

Complete packets with color-coded maps and CWMTF information were provided to attending and non-attending legislators and local government officials. Following the tour, all 10 legislators were encouraged to write to the CWMTF Board in support of Durham County's grant application.

The event accomplished its purposes of promoting full-funding of the CWMTF and thanking local officials for their support of the purchase of the Duke Tract and Penny Lands.

Full funding of the CWMTF was approved by the NC Legislature in August 2005. The CWMTF Board will consider Durham County's \$1,112,000 grant application at its September 11-12 meeting in Rutherford County.

No further business was discussed.

Minutes submitted for correction and approval by

Deb Christie, acting Secretary, retiring from active participation with the NHCCAC