

New Hope Creek Corridor Advisory Committee—Minutes of Meeting of Nov. 10, 2005

[Attending: Sally Robertson, Rich Shaw, Hildegard Ryals, Bill Olive, John Kent, Wendy Jacobs, Charlie Welch, Bill Hutchins, Allison Stafford (visitor)]

Sally Robertson reported on development of the website, which can be found at www.newhopecreek.org

The index on the website currently divides the creek into the 10 segments used in the New Hope Plan. Sandy Creek is posted as an example. Sally and John Kent suggested that the website start with a clickable map of the entire creek, with points of interest (e.g. access points) being the basis for organizing the site. There was general support for this approach, though it was also suggested that the links should still include language and maps from the Plan where feasible, since this is the ultimate basis for planning and the Committee's mandate.

It was agreed that it would be very desirable for the NHCCAC website to either post or link to the Durham and Orange County Natural Heritage Inventories. . Bill Olive noted that the inventory posting should not only show the methodology and results, but also how the inventory is used by local governments. There is also a real need to put up information on cultural heritage and historic features. Students, from elementary to graduate school could be involved in identifying this information. The State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) could also be helpful with this. In publishing information about significant archeological sites, exact locations should be kept confidential to prevent vandalism.

Wendy Jacobs noted that the entire 3rd grade of Forest View Elementary (100 children) is studying New Hope Creek. They are doing very diverse, interdisciplinary projects involving both science and the arts. Next week the kids are going to hike the Erwin Tract on a "field trip". Hildegard spoke for the general desirability of involving schools with the creek, especially children from poor communities.

The cumulative impact of already approved development along the Creek was discussed. John Kent has been monitoring sedimentation from several developments. It was suggested that we urge Durham to increase the number of erosion inspectors and people who track stormwater. The question rose as to whether the city or the county does this in Durham City territory. A huge shopping center has been approved on the SE corner of Hwy. 54 and Hope Valley Road—outside the planning area of NHCCAC but nonetheless having a potential impact on Third Fork Creek.

John Kent suggested that we carefully monitor the parcel just to the east of the property now being developed at the corner of 15-501 and Mt. Moriah Rd. Could the public buy this parcel, much of which is floodplain?

The question arose as to whether any of the Durham bond issues contained funds for open space acquisition.

Rich Shaw noted that this week Orange County will be closing on acquisition of 7 acres bordering the Erwin Tract.

The committee adjourned at 6 pm so members could attend the Duke Forest Gathering at nearby New Hope Improvement Association. A New Hope exhibit was prominently displayed there and Sally Robertson demonstrated the NHCCAC website.

Please contact Bob Healy healy@duke.edu with an additions or corrections.