

New Hope Creek Corridor Advisory Committee—Minutes of Meeting of Jan. 12, 2006

[Attending: Walter Fowler, John Goebel, Bob Healy, Hildegard Ryals, Bill Olive, Charlie Welch, Bill Hutchins, Linda Tugurian (teacher at Forest View)]

John Goebel passed out copies of an excellent map of the New Hope Corridor, created by Jane Korest for a recent DOST (Durham Open Space and Trails Commission) retreat. At the retreat, some DOST members expressed interest in linking Durham and Chapel Hill by trails. This would almost certainly involve the New Hope. The trails committee is updating their 5 year master plan. DOST's open space committee is particularly interested in small urban open spaces. Trinity School is planning an expansion and may want to locate a parking lot in the New Hope floodplain.

We discussed possibilities for completing the Sandy Creek Trail to Cornwallis Rd., where it could connect to the Duke golf course trail system. An obstacle is the Candle Shop on Cornwallis, which has not sold or granted an easement. There is also the problem of how to get under 15-501, given that the underpass for Sandy Creek is so low.

Linda Tugurian, a teacher at Forest View Elementary spoke about the use of the New Hope by Forest View classes, particularly by the third grade. Linda is the technology facilitator at the school, and has a background in natural science; Bob Palminteri is the science facilitator. The possibility of having students do art connected to the New Hope was raised, as well as the possibility of a field guide. A collection of artifacts could be accumulated and a New Hope Museum started at the school, which could later be transferred to the visitor center at Hollow Rock access. Forest View will have an "informance" next Weds., Jan. 18 at 12:30 at which students will share some of what they have discovered along the New Hope. All are invited.

Hildegard brought up the desirability of having a safe way for students at Forest View to walk from the school to the creek. At present, they must go by activity bus. One option would be to construct a sidewalk or bike path along the Solterra side of Erwin Rd. There will be a hearing on Jan. 31 of the Durham Bicycle-Pedestrian Advisory Commission to solicit public comments on bike paths—we should participate and encourage the EANG folks to do the same. See their website <http://dbpac.dchcmpto.org/>

Goebel said that Durham is doing a cultural and historic inventory. We should learn more about this.

We discussed Friends of New Hope Creek, and created a working group (Ryals, Fowler, Olive) to plan an Earth Day (late April) event at Leigh Farm. We hope this event will result in a group of volunteers who will carry the Friends idea forward. Dave Owen should be approached to give tours of the site, which he knows very well.

It was noted that DOST matching grants (\$80,000) are available for projects. We might approach them to support improvements at Leigh Farm or Sandy Creek, or to help in the proposed pedestrian trail between Forest View Elementary and Hollow Rock (perhaps the PTA could provide the match for this.)

Several participants reported on their investigation of specific areas in the New Hope plan for the purpose of contributing more text and photos to our growing website. Rich Shaw has just submitted three very illustrative digital photos to Sally (Hollow Rock area) and others are encouraged to do the same. We also encourage everyone to link other websites to ours, as it raises our site's profile in searches and will in general help people learn more about the New Hope corridor.

Additions or corrections to these minutes should be sent to Bob Healy (healy@duke.edu)

Next meeting will be Thursday, February 9 at 5 pm in the Media Center at Forest View Elementary School. Items for the agenda will be solicited in advance from all of you.