

New Hope Creek Corridor Advisory Committee Minutes of Meeting of March 9, 2006

Present: Dave Cook (Forest View School), John Goebel, Wendy Jacobs, John Kent, Walter Fowler, Bob Healy, Bill Hutchins, Sally Robertson, Hildegard Ryals, Rich Shaw, Charlie Welch

Discussion of area around Trinity School. Kent reported on a meeting with Dennis Doty (Durham Planning), Glenn Bowles (Orange Co. Planning) and others on this project, which spans both jurisdictions. We have limited possibility for input, as the jurisdictions will most likely be dealing only with an existing site plan at the Development Review Board level. New floodplain data for Orange County may be relevant to the proposed expansion of the soccer field, which may no longer encroach in the floodway fringe. The need to continue a cooperative relationship with Trinity School was emphasized, particularly with regard to chemical application to fields, tree planting, and possible access to the school-owned Dallas Branch Preserve. TLC is currently in discussion with the school on the preserve.

Shaw reported that Orange County has just approved participation in buying 22 acres from the Pennys in cooperation with Triangle Land Conservancy. 90 percent of cost will be covered by a grant to TLC from the NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources' Ecosystem Enhancement Program. Closing will be in April and land will be conveyed to Orange County and managed by the OC Department of Resource Conservation.

Jacobs reported that her husband has discovered a Patterson family cemetery in the New Hope corridor between Erwin Rd. and 15-501. It is still being cared for. Jacobs also reported on meeting of Durham-Orange-Chapel Hill Work Group (public officials). The jurisdictions will try to get an interlocal agreement for planning of public facilities at Hollow Rock Access Area in place by August. Healy suggested that we continue to underline the desirability of including in planning discussions (a) a trail/sidewalk between Forest View Elementary and the access area and (b) the future status of Pickett Rd.

Shaw reported that a conservation easement was recently recorded in favor of the State of North Carolina by the Brown family on a 49 acre tract on the west bank of New Hope Creek, off Mt. Moriah Road. Wetlands will be restored by KCI Associates of Raleigh for the Ecosystem Enhancement Program. Rich will try to learn more about what is planned. The easement does not provide for public access.

Kent mentioned he had noticed erosion from the Evergreen development near Githens Middle School in Durham. He also expressed concern about the Fantasia miniature golf course property, along Garrett Rd.

The committee decided that each meeting would devote some time to discussion of a different segment of the New Hope, including problems and opportunities. This meeting, we devoted considerable time to the area between Erwin Rd. and 15-501 on the east side of the creek. Next meeting (April) will deal with both sides of Garrett Rd. between 15-501 and Chapel Hill Rd. The May meeting will deal with the west side of Sandy Creek, including the land near Cressett Academy and Good Shepherd Church. Committee members are encouraged to visit these areas and to think of issues that can be raised.

Robertson reported on the ever-developing web site. New icons have been added to the main map directing viewers to particular features and sites (e.g. Leigh Farm) as well as to the planning zones. Committee members will provide her with more information on water quality and geology (Kent) and historic sites. Members are encouraged to send photos of sites not now represented on the web pages. Appended below is a list of New Hope planning segments and people who have volunteered to provide Sally with information on them.

Component 1 NC54 to Chapel Hill Rd., incl. Leigh Farm—Ryals
Component 3 Sandy Creek--Goebel
Component 4 15/501 to Erwin Rd.—Welch
Component 7 Mud Creek—Welch
Component 8 Cornwallis/Erwin Natural Area—will ask Judd Edeburn
Component 10 Orange County Wildlife Corridors—Hutchins
Draft text for a Jordan Lake to NC 54 page—Healy

Ryals reported on Earth Day celebration, scheduled for Saturday, April 22 at Leigh Farm. She has spoken with Kevin Bryce about cooperating with TLC on this event. Healy has since contacted planners of Duke's Earth Day festival (which will be April 21)—we can have a New Hope table at that event.

Next Meeting: Thursday, April 13 at 5 pm Forest View Elementary