

New Hope Creek Corridor Advisory Committee

Minutes of Meeting of Sept. 14, 2006

(Present: Joe Blackley, Floyd Bridgwater, Walter Fowler, John Kent, Marin Magat, Bob Healy, Rich Shaw, Charlie Welch)

- (1) The Committee welcomed Marin Magat as a returning member. She lives near New Hope Creek.
- (2) Turkey Farm Road Bridge Replacement—The Committee revised, and unanimously approved, the following letter to NC Department of Transportation District Engineer Mike Mills. Mills had requested, via Judd Edeburn, that we provide him with a written statement of New Hope issues potentially raised by this project.

Mr. Mike Mills

District 7 Engineer, North Carolina Department of Transportation

Dear Mr. Mills:

I write on behalf of the New Hope Creek Corridor Advisory Committee (NHCCAC). I am pleased to have the opportunity to provide input to the planning process for the replacement of the SR 1730 (Turkey Farm Road) bridge over New Hope Creek, Project B-4218. As you may know the New Hope Creek Open Space Master Plan was adopted in 1991 by the Town of Chapel Hill, Orange County, the City of Durham and Durham County. The Committee was created in 1992 to advise the four local governments regarding implementation of the New Hope Plan. The Plan is designed to promote measures which will preserve and enhance the aesthetic, environmental, educational and recreational values of the area.

Through discussions within the NHCCAC and with other individuals and groups we offer the following recommendations which we believe should be incorporated into the design and construction of this bridge:

- 1. An off-site detour should be used during construction, employing existing roads rather than building a temporary bridge on site.*
- 2. The replacement bridge should have no bents (piers) within the creek, minimizing debris damming.*
- 3. Clearing and grubbing of vegetation should be held to the minimum so as to limit solar input to the creek waters*

4. *High Quality Waters (HWQ) erosion and sedimentation measures should be followed throughout the process.*
5. *The replacement span should be high enough (at least 7 feet high from normal pool) and wide enough (between bents) to minimize scouring and damage to benthic habitats, facilitate dry land passage of wildlife and accommodate possible future pedestrian use. Obviously, replacement of the bridge by a culvert (as on Mt. Sinai Rd. (see photo) is not acceptable.*
6. *Scuppers on the replacement bridge should not empty directly into the stream, but instead be piped to the flood plain for filtration of contaminants.*
7. *Removal of the existing structure should be done with utmost care so as not to allow any debris to enter the stream.*
8. *The replacement bridge should be constructed of sufficient width to accommodate bike/pedestrian lanes but no more than 2 lanes of automobile traffic.*

*In addition, it is our understanding from the North Carolina Natural Heritage Program, that the section of New Hope Creek in the vicinity of the Turkey Farm Road Bridge supports a population of rare, and as yet undescribed, species of freshwater mussel (*Lampsilis* sp). We strongly suggest that input from Natural Heritage ecologists be obtained before formulating plans for the structure.*

Thank you for considering our input. We remain ready to discuss further details and implementation of measures which will protect the integrity of the values of the New Hope Creek Corridor, and we look forward to hearing from you in this regard.

This letter will be sent by Bob Healy on New Hope stationery to be supplied by Hildegard Ryals.

- (3) Trammell Crow Proposed Apartment Development on Garrett Road. Healy and Welch reported on their meeting with Trammell Crow Realty and its design consultant. They believe that the arrangement of buildings on the site is far better than the Centex development, which the NHCCAC successfully opposed in 2005, despite the fact that the development density is higher than Centex (330 units compared with about 270). This is mainly due to the fact that some of the TCR units are 3 story and the clustering is better implemented so that impervious surface is reduced. Issues identified by the NHCCAC that should be monitored as this plan does through hearings are (1) runoff toward the Creek—appears to be adequately controlled, but we should seek professional guidance from Durham erosion control staff; (2) dedication of the large acreage of unbuildable wet area on the west side of the site to the city or county of Durham, rather than to a homeowners' association. This will ensure availability for future trail access. Trammell Crow has indicated that they are amenable to public dedication; (3) possible grant of a trail easement across the TCR property from Garrett Road to the Creek. Welch and Healy propose to walk the property, with TCR permission, soon. The NHCCAC needs to decide at some point whether the trail connection between Sandy Creek Park and the

New Hope main stem will cross Garrett at Good Shepherd Church and continue west on the existing easement separating Alexan Farms from Garrett Farms or should follow the road behind Mark Jacobson Toyota, then cross the TCR property. It is possible that both routes might be desirable, one for foot traffic, the other for bicycle commuters, connecting Durham to Chapel Hill.

It was noted that Durham Open Space manager Jane Korest has recently hired an assistant (Gary??) with trails experience and he should be invited on our walk over the property.

(4) Sally Robertson, our webmistress, has taken on some new employment. But she will still add materials to existing sections of the website (e.g. meeting minutes, photos and write-ups on various sections of the New Hope, links to news articles). Please send these materials directly to her, with a copy to Bob Healy.

(4) History of New Hope Creek. Joe Blackley and Bill Olive will be meeting with Corps of Engineers staff soon to get information about building of Jordan Lake and early acquisition of New Hope lands by the Corps. They will let the NHCCAC know by email where and when this meeting will occur in case others wish to participate. The outline of the history is below. Bill and Joe solicit volunteer writers of sections or even parts of sections.

Tentative Title of Paper: “Events Related to Appreciation, Use of and Threats Affecting New Hope Creek and its Corridor: A History”

Subjects Anticipated to be Covered in the Paper

- 1. The Early Period: Native Americans**
Possible Information Sources: Tape made by Mr. Whitfield; Owner (Mr. Dixon) of Kuder land on which Indian Mound is located
- 2. Dirt Roads, Whiskey Stills and Primitive Camping Prior to Formation of Duke Forest**
Possible Information Sources: B.B. Olive
- 3. Formation of Duke Forest and its Effect on Use and Preservation of New Hope Creek**
Possible Information Sources: Judson Edeburn; Fred White
- 4. Threats Overcome in Protecting New Hope Creek**
 - (a) Development of Adjacent Apartments and Nursing Home and Threat of Improperly Treated Effluent**
 - (b) Fiber Industries and Its Threat**
 - (c) I-40 Right of Way and Its Threats (1970 – 1985)**
 - (d) Classification of New Hope Creek****Possible Information Sources: B.B. Olive**
- 5. Use of New Hope Creek As a Basis For Research**
Possible Information Sources: Seth Reice, Head of Ecology Program at UNC
- 6. Establishment of Jordan Lake and Its Effect on New Hope Creek**
Possible Information Sources: Jordan Lake Management
- 7. Development of Citizen Support Protective of New Hope Creek and Duke Forest**

Possible Information Sources: Hildegard Ryals, Debbie McCarthy, Ellen Reckhow, Becky Heron, Liz Pullman, Ed Harrison, and B.B. Olive.

- 8. The Sandy Creek Area – Prior To Establishment of Sandy Creek Park
Possible Information Sources: Durham City Archives**
- 9. Present and Future Objectives For Sandy Creek Park Area
Possible Information Sources: Bob Healy**
- 10. The New Hope Plan
Possible Information Sources: Pearson Stewart, Ken Coutler**
- 11. Establishment and History of The New Hope Creek Corridor Advisory Committee, Its Work / Future Plans
Possible Information Sources: Hildegard Ryals, Bob Healy**
- 12. Protection of Leigh Farm
Possible Information Sources: Curtis Booker**
- 13. Existing and Future Trails and Parks
Possible Information Sources: Ken Coulter**
- 14. Presently Recognized Threats in Need of Attention
Possible Information Sources: Hildegard Ryals, Bob Healy, Kevin Bryce**

B.B. Olive Requests Other Information Sources

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Next meeting Oct. 12 at 5 pm Forest View Elementary School