

Minutes of the Dec. 14 meeting of the New Hope Corridor Committee at Forest View Elementary School

Attendees: Wendy Jacobs, Walter Fowler (co-chairs for this meeting), Hildegard Ryals, Helen Youngblood, Jane Korest, Beth Timson, Rod Florence, Ed Harrison, Judd Edeburn, John Kent, Cameron Toon, George Dubay, Randy Sussman

1. Beth Timson presented a Parks and Rec. proposal to construct two soccer fields as well as other recreation facilities at the new city park adjacent to Githens Junior High School. One of the planned soccer fields extends into the floodplain containing New Hope Creek, although the creek bed itself is "about 1000 feet away." This field is also adjacent to a registered Natural Heritage area but was placed to "minimize impact" to this area. Several soccer enthusiasts attended the meeting and emphasized the need for soccer fields in this part of Durham and expressed some frustration at resistance to this and previous plans for soccer fields in Durham and Orange Counties. Helen Youngblood pointed out that some sort of compromise needed to be worked out to the reasonable satisfaction of interested parties. It was agreed that the New Hope Corridor Committee should meet at the site itself with copies of the plans on Sunday, Dec. 17, at 2 pm. We will try to formulate a recommendation at that time.
2. The potential impact on Leigh Farm of a proposed development off Farrington Rd. was briefly discussed and will be brought up again at the next meeting.
3. Gail Abrams is heading a group interested in planning environmental education for the area. Beth Timson will let us know more about this group's efforts and their next meeting on Jan. 10.
4. The Committee voted to support Charlie Welch's application for selection to the Erwin Tract Committee. If selected, he would act as this Committee's representative to that body.
5. The next regular meeting of the New Hope Corridor Committee will be Tues. Jan 9 [correction: Thurs., Jan. 11] at 5 pm at Forest View Elementary School Library.

Walter Fowler