

New Hope Creek Corridor Advisory Committee— Minutes of Meeting of March 8, 2007

Present: Floyd Bridgwater, Walter Fowler, John Goebel, Bob Healy, Wendy Jacobs, Jane Korest, Bill Olive, Charlie Welch

- (1) DOST matching grant possibilities. Goebel said that the next cycle of matching grants from Durham Open Space and Trails Commission will be in August 2007. He suggested that one possibility is to develop a project along with Greenways, Inc. to find ways to make connections between existing trails and create a larger system. Healy suggested that a possible project would be creation of walking trail access between Forest View Elementary and the Hollow Rock area—at present students must be transported over the short distance by bus because there is no safe way to walk. Who might provide the required 50% match for either of those projects?

Jacobs noted that in-kind contributions are possible matches and suggested that Boy Scout Troop 461 might be interested in such a project. The troop will be cleaning up a portion of New Hope Creek near Pickett Road this Saturday. She also observed that some scouts are looking for Eagle Scout projects. Goebel will bring the matching grant rules to our next meeting.

It was noted that we need to coordinate our trail plans with Greg Schuster, open space coordinator for Durham County so that he can make sure our plans are consistent with both Parks and Recreation and County open space plans. According to Jane Korest, Greg has been walking trails recently—he has discovered that an informal trail south of 15-501 near Githens Middle School has become a gang hangout. Korest said that a Durham priority is a trail from the Hollow Rock area to 15-501 on the East side of the New Hope, now that the required land and easements have been secured. We will put Greg on the New Hope mailing list.

- (2) Korest had no news on the timing of final decisions for the Githens/Chapel Hill Road Park. Healy noted that he understood that Githens had not wanted any of the park facilities on its land because it would raise impervious surface, and might interfere with future school expansion. Korest said that there may be a way around this and that she will talk with Beth Timson regarding possibilities for further work with the school to possibly get more flexibility in siting park facilities.

- (3) Discussion of possible future trails on Army Corps land. Korest pointed out that the Corps and NC Wildlife Resources Commission were already being asked to accommodate the Mountains to Sea trail on their land near Falls Lake. There is question of who would manage such a trail in the long run—Durham County, for example, has limited management resources, though Wake County has more. Olive suggested getting the Corps more involved in planning for Leigh Farm

Park, which adjoins its land. He suggested that we look at Cedar Run Park in Alamance County as a possible model. It was noted that there is a strong demand for Frisbee golf courses, and there may be a place in Leigh Farm Park for such a use.

(4) There was a general discussion of how to make a trail connection between Sandy Creek trail (and possible future trails to the south) and the Duke trails. The Candle Shop, which was the only point where right of way has not been secured for such a trail, has been closed for months. There may be an opportunity for securing access here.

**Next meeting, Thursday, April 12
5 pm Forest View Elementary School**