

New Hope Creek Corridor Advisory Committee

Minutes of Meeting of June 14, 2007

Present: Edeburn, Fowler, Goebel, Healy, Harrison, Kent, Olive, Schuster, Worrell

- (1) Greg Schuster reported on condition of the Githens Park Trail. He, along with Healy and Jane Korest, visited the week before last. They noticed (and Schuster covered up) some graffiti on trees. Edeburn said that based on his Duke Forest experience, graffiti should be removed promptly. Kent said that a “graffiti [removal] club” had had success in eradicating graffiti along local trails in Ft. Wayne, Ind. There is some weather damage to the boardwalks, and one wooden bridge section needs to be replaced. Greg has tried to enlist neighbors for volunteer maintenance/trailwatch, so far without success. Goebel suggested Adopt-a-Trail program. Healy suggested a sign be put up at trailhead with a phone number to report trail damage or unsafe conditions to Schuster and/or a link to www.newhopecreek.com. A sign up for volunteers could be included on the website.

Edeburn suggested that we need an organized maintenance program for the whole system of trails. In general, we need more interpretation, nature walks, water sampling. Schuster suggested making a link to Githens science teachers. Kent said that John Heffernan of Forest View could be a good initial contact in meeting science teachers.

Kent reported people living in the woods and in a barn both north and south of 15-501 near Mt. Moriah Rd. Healy will check this out.

- (2) Integrating NH trails with other recreational and transportation trails and bikeways. This will be a key issue for the NHCCAC as we move from securing rights of way to promoting use of the protected property. The 15-501 bridge is a real obstacle to connecting Chapel Hill and Durham with a pedestrian or bike way. None of us knew whether NC DOT had committed to a bikeway on the replacement bridge—whose construction is in any case delayed. Harrison mentioned the importance of federal transportation matching funds for bike trail and bike lane projects.

The committee recommended using its September meeting to communicate with area planners and activists concerned with bike trails and other walkability and non-motorized transport issues. We need to understand their future plans and try to coordinate NH trails with them. Among those suggested to invite: Mark Ahrendsen, Durham transportation planner; Dale McKeel; Dan Clever, bike committee chair of DOST; Gordon Southerland, Chapel Hill bike planner; Durham Bike-Ped Commission. We should also coordinate

with local committees in Durham and Orange counties preparing plans for future CO2 reduction, in part through encouraging reduced automobile use.

We may wish to hold this meeting in the evening, at the New Hope Improvement Association. Healy will be out of the country Sept. 1-Nov. 10, so he suggests the evening of Wednesday, September 5 (after Labor Day).

(3) North-South trail from Hollow Rock to 15-501. Harrison said there is now public ownership or access easement along whole east side of creek. No one on committee knew whether there is an access easement to the creek at Jeff Fischer's property at Hollow Rock.

(4) Kent mentioned that he had seen new "No Trespassing" signs near creek at Starfield Subdivision near old US 86. This seems to contravene a longstanding public access agreement and should be investigated. (by Shaw??)

(5) Kent said he was generally pleased with the NC DOT written response to our letter regarding Turkey Farm Road bridge. Kent will contact DOT to make sure we continue to be in the planning loop as this project moves forward.

(6) Archeological survey of Hollow Rock area. We need to meet with consultant when he/she has been identified.

NEXT MEETING THURSDAY, JULY 12
(location to be arranged, as Forest View may be closed for summer)