

New Hope Creek Corridor Advisory Committee Minutes of Meeting of August 9, 2007

Attending: Bridgwater, Fowler, Healy, Jacobs, Olive, Schuster, Welch

(1) Jordan Lake Water quality—The North Carolina state Division of Water Quality is considering watershed protection rules for Jordan Lake. The DWQ will accept written comments on the proposal until Sept. 14. They can be sent to Rich Gannon at the Division of Water Quality's Planning Section, 1617 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, N.C. 27699-1617 or via e-mail to rich.gannon@ncmail.net or jason.t.robinson@ncmail.net. The New Hope Committee asks John Kent to submit comments on our behalf, based on his many years of water sampling in the NH watershed.

(2) John Kent reports (via prior communication to Healy) that there are several “no trespassing” signs in stream buffer at Starfield development off old Hwy. 86, Orange County. He will ask Rich Shaw to follow up on this. Jacobs suggested that there should be a general practice by owners of stream buffer easements (whether local governments, Triangle Land Conservancy or other land management agencies) of posting signs indicating the limits of the protected buffer, so that adjoining residents do not encroach on the protected area and to discourage trash dumping.

(3) Healy will, as requested by Mark Bowles of Trammell Crow, read the letter we had sent him regarding the Alexan Garrett Rd. development at the meeting of the Durham Planning Commission, Aug. 14.

(4) A new residential development (EPCON Neighborhood) has been proposed in Durham County along Farrington Rd. and will go to the Planning Commission on Aug. 14. The proposal states that “a sewer line extension will be necessary from the Leigh Farm Park area.” Healy is attempting to secure more information on the specifics of the sewer line implications from Robert Joyner of Durham Water and Sewer Department. The committee agreed that this sewer line could have a major negative impact on the Leigh Farm Park and that Healy should bring our concerns before the Planning Commission at their upcoming meeting.

Debbie McCarthy had earlier sent the following email to Healy:

Concerns include:

1) Storm Water Run-off

Where Leigh Farm Park joins Trenton Rd. lots, there are low-lying wetlands and bottomland hardwood forest. It already becomes a lake in heavy rain, so the new development's run-off would need to be carefully controlled

2) Sewer Extension

Again because of the environmental sensitivity of the trees and wetlands, cutting a swath through the park at this location should be as controlled as possible. We feel if a sewer easement is inevitable, it would be good to have input into the process. We have spoken to the lawyers who represent the developers and they are willing to ask the city for no more than 10 feet of clearing (rather than 30) and to ask that the routing of the pipe minimize the cutting of trees and vegetation. This could be a good opportunity to establish a precedent for a more environmentally friendly approach to laying sewer pipe through sensitive areas. If engineering and public works are not willing to entertain these changes (insisting on 30 feet etc.) then I believe we should "just say no".

3) Noise from I-40

This issue is related directly to number 2: cutting trees and vegetation would exacerbate an already BAD noise problem from the incessant 18 wheelers on the interstate

Thanks for taking these thoughts into consideration. I should mention traffic (Farrington and NC 54 is one of the worst intersections in Durham) and incompatible density as additional concerns.

(5) The long-awaited first meeting of the Hollow Rock Planning Committee will be held on September 15.

(6) The September meeting of the NHCCAC will be held at 7 pm on Weds. Sept. 5 (at New Hope Improvement Association—Bill Olive to arrange to reserve room). The meeting will be the first step in our efforts to coordinate New Hope trail plans with persons concerned with bike/ped trail planning in the region. We will invite anyone doing such planning, as well as members of bike/pedestrian/equestrian user groups. Schuster noted that there are very limited trail opportunities in the whole region for equestrians. Healy said that while there are many trails in the New Hope plan and two (Githens School and Sandy Creek Park) have been constructed, the actual layout of the trails, and their size, materials, etc. have not been specified. Now that we have nearly all of the required right of way, and are starting to plan the New Hope trail system, this would be a good time to coordinate with others. It would not only make a better trail system, but would also give us allies on such issues as getting NC Department of Transportation to include a bike lane on the 15-501 replacement bridge.

Committee members are encouraged to supply Healy with names and email addresses of persons who should be invited.

Among those we have thought of thus far are:

Mark Aronson, Bill Judge and Andrew Henry—Durham Dept. of Transportation
John Hodges-Copple—Triangle J Council of Governments
Carol Benaitis--Corps of Engineers
Chair of DOST bike/trails committee
Durham Parks and Rec. Dept.

Please supply more names and emails!

**Next meeting September 5 at 7 p.m. (note date and time)
Location tba—most likely New Hope Improvement Assn.**