

# **New Hope Creek Corridor Advisory Committee**

## **September 11, 2008—Minutes of Meeting**

**(Present: Fowler, Harrison, Healy, Jacobs, Kent, Olive, Welch, Jane Korest, Greg Schuster)**

### Agenda

**(1) Invitation to New City Manager.** Olive said he had been to a Durham Chamber of Commerce meeting at which the new Durham city manager had given an excellent talk on “what makes a city great”. Olive suggested the NHCCAC invite him to speak. After discussion, it was decided that the NHCCAC would try to sponsor a speaking event for the manager to which we would invite other organizations, such as Triangle Land Conservancy, New Hope Audubon, DOST, Northeast Creek Assn., Third Fork Creek Assn, the EANG list, and others. We would ask the manager to talk about role of open space in making a city great. Ideas for a venue—main library auditorium, Trinity School, Church of the Good Shepherd (Welch will investigate the last of these.)

**(2) Update on Hollow Rock area planning—**Welch said that at last HR meeting, members were presented with three park development alternatives, based on their earlier charette exercise. At this meeting, committee members tagged parts of each alternative with red or green stickers, indicating their degree of support. Most members favored low intensity development of facilities at the site. Two of the three alternatives involved closing Pickett Rd., although it appears that getting permission from the state to do this may be difficult. There will be an extensive trail system, only a small part paved. Best candidate for a parking lot is the eastern corner of the Erwin Tract, near Erwin Rd. (and Solterra). Eventual movement of Hollow Rock store to the site, which could be a place to display objects related to the site. Kent said that Duke Forest may be amenable to a trail on the east side of the creek, crossing under the Erwin Rd. bridge.

**(3) Update on Turkey Farm Road bridge (Kent/Healy)—**Ryke Longest is sending a letter to NCDOT seeking final resolution of remaining issues, which are notification and inspection. Kent said Barry Jacobs is meeting with Mike Mills of NCDOT today and may get commitment on these. TLC is buying a 40 acre tract upstream from the bridge. Kent also reported that in August there was a 36,000 gallon sewage spill from a broken pipe into a tributary of Sandy Creek.

**(4) Report on proposed development at 751 and I-40 (Healy)—**Healy said he attended a presentation by the developer on a proposed office-restaurant-hotel complex on NW corner of 751 and I-40. Healy said it appeared the only NH impacts would be size of buffers and protection during construction of trees in the buffers. This issue of protecting the integrity of saved trees from damage during construction is a general concern, and one that we should help put on the policy agenda.

**(5) Proposed car dealership at corner of 15-501 and Mt. Moriah Rd.**—Harrison, Kent, Welch, Healy and Youngblood met on the property with the developer’s landscape architect. They made a number of suggestions, particularly in objection to the “lollipop” extension of the project that put the storm water retention pond in a steeply sloping area. The developer has not yet sent us a revised plan. Korest said that NHCCAC should provide written comments even though the matter is not yet before the Planning Commission, as it may come up quickly and our comments would be useful. Healy is to write a letter conveying our comments and circulate it to the committee for approval.

**(6) Trail at Githens Middle School (Healy/Schuster)**—Healy said that local resident Bob Merriam has been working on exotic plant eradication near 15-501 bridge and that he can be a resource in laying out a trail extension. Kent said DOT was putting up a deer fence as part of the bridge replacement that would funnel wildlife down the New Hope. He said a trail on the east side of the creek from 15-5-1 northward is now possible, as the county has right of way. Schuster said he is doing an issue assessment of the Githens Park trail—the trail is currently closed because of damage from recent heavy rains. Assessment will look at both short and long term issues. Korest said that Schuster has 1000 acres of land to manage for the county—if we build more trails, county will need another land manger to carry the workload.

**(7) Fall trail mapping and possible trail building**—we agreed that this should be a priority for NHCCAC, as soon as cool weather comes. Target areas would be NH between Githens trail and Hollow Rock, and trail connection between Sandy Creek Park and main stem of New Hope and Mud Creek.

**(8) Durham meals tax proposal.** Jacobs said that the proposed Durham tax on restaurant meals, which may be on November ballot, would provide \$12 m. for trails and recreation funding. She circulated an information sheet and asked for NHCCAC to vote on an endorsement of the meals tax at its next meeting.