

New Hope Creek Corridor Advisory Committee

Minutes of Meeting of August 13, 2009

(Present: Berndt, Bridgwater, Edeburn, Fowler, Goebel, Kent, Healy, Welch, Greg Schuster, Jeff Fisher)

- (1) Turkey Farm Road Bridge. The bridge is now open. Healy observed that the large rip-rap and the long guard rails make it difficult to cross Turkey Farm Road on foot from the TLC Johnston Tract. Moreover, the large rip-rap under the bridge makes it almost impossible to cross underneath. Kent said that much of this design was a response to FEMA flood requirements. Fowler expressed interest in seeing what will happen at the bridge site in the case of a large storm event. Several people discussed future trail possibilities in the area, as related to the constraints imposed by the new bridge.

Kent described how on July 18, after a report by Goebel, he traced an erosion plume that emptied into the creek from a tributary above the bridge, far upstream to an apartment development on Old Field Creek. After some delay, regulators secured the installation of several erosion control measures at that site. Healy suggested that Kent save his photos and videos of the event for future talks or exhibits we might prepare. Edeburn said that he also has information on the impact on the Creek of the breaching of the dam at Camp New Hope several months ago. Kent suggested that we try to get some kind of special regulatory treatment for Old Field Creek, given its potential for damaging erosion.

Kent will draft a letter to NCDOT reprising our experience with Turkey Farm Bridge, and including both the positive (generally good job of controlling erosion during construction) and the negative (refusal to negotiate with us about bridge design, thus making it necessary for us to resort to the courts). He will ask for comments on the letter at a future meeting.

- (2) ECO (neighborhood organization opposed to Cornwallis/Erwin high school site) has a website. They have posted an environmental report by a consultant. Healy has written to DPS and school board members on behalf of NHCAAC, pointing out how major construction on that site is inconsistent with the New Hope Plan. LATEST NEWS: In late August, Durham Public Schools announced that it was no longer considering this site.
- (3) Tyler Waring (Durham Planning) is still working on a detailed map of the New Hope region. He wants input from us. Greg Schuster met with Waring and with Planning Director Keith Luck. Schuster says there is still open space data that needs to be retrieved. Eventually, the map could be coordinated with Google Earth. Goebel says Student Conservation Association could be involved in data gathering and trail construction. Edeburn said Americorps has been used on Duke Forest.

- (4) The work of the Hollow Rock Planning Committee has ended but the four local jurisdictions are still making comments on the plan. They especially want cost estimates. In particular, bridges have in the past been quite costly. Adoption of the plan by local governments may be in late fall or winter. NHCCAC hopes to build some of the trails in the meantime. Schuster said that some bridges will need to be permitted by the city, which involves review by a professional engineer. Healy suggested that many local corporations have volunteer work days, and some of these businesses may employ engineers. He will contact Bob Zumwalt of John R. McAdams, a land planning firm that would have this sort of expertise. Fischer said that he is trying to set up a nonprofit to receive contributions to moving and restoring Hollow Rock Store. Goebel brought in five copies of the Hollow Rock CD. We can buy this for \$5 and sell for \$15. Goebel will get 20 more copies from the recording company so we will have a supply on hand for events.

Next Meeting Thursday, September 10 5 pm
Recreation Center in Garrett Farms