

New Hope Creek Corridor Advisory Committee Minutes of Meeting of November 12, 2009

Present: Fowler, Bridgwater, Kent, Healy, Welch, Harrison, Howes, Schuster, Chris Smith

This was an abbreviated meeting so members could attend the Duke Forest Gathering.

- (1) Healy noted that we have both the Hollow Rock CD and Emily Weinstein's book available for sale. We will be bringing these to future events.
- (2) Hollow Rock Park. Kent said that the current budget crunch might make the cost of park development lower than it would be later. Work on the parking lot by volunteers was discussed, but it was noted that curb cuts to Erwin Rd. will be needed. Schuster said that the first priority is to get all the local governments to approve the plan. Durham County may be the first to consider it. In Chapel Hill, the plan would go to the Greenways commission after Town Council action.
- (3) Sandy Creek Park. Healy brought up the possibility of a "birding trail" and a simple "hide" near the lower wetlands. This would take advantage of the park's special qualities and help build a strong constituency for it. It was suggested that we take an exploratory hike soon, and invite Rosetta Radtke of Durham City Parks and Recreation. (Several days later, Schuster, Healy, Radtke Goebel and Welch did this hike and concluded that there were several spots that would make for good bird observation. Work on the lower wetland under the Environmental Enhancement Program will start on late November. Hopefully this will make the waterfowl habitat even better than it is now. We obtained Rosetta's permission to put up a mailbox type container near the trail head where we can leave copies of the bird list that Kent Fiala kindly drew up for us as well as a little book where birders can record interesting sightings and their location.

Next meeting Thursday, Dec. 10, 5 pm