

# **New Hope Creek Corridor Advisory Committee**

## **Minutes of Meeting of March 11, 2010**

(Present: Bridgwater, Edeburn, Fowler, Goebel, Harrison, Kent, Healy, Welch, Helen Youngblood, Jane Korest, Chris Smith, Bo Howes, Debbie McCarthy, Katie Rose Levin)

(1) Creek Cleanup Day--Sandy Creek--March 20---Goebel said recent rains have floated a lot of material down the creek and onto the paved trail. He notes that the sand has now been scraped off the trail, but is piled up nearby and will easily be redeposited. Goebel will try to publicize the event in adjoining neighborhoods so as to draw in park users who can later be participants in our future "mini-plan" event. A mini-plan could be based in part on patterns of existing park use and things that users might like added. Healy suggested that we think of ways to make the park more attractive to Latino users, given that there are nearby apartment complexes with a large Latino presence. Youngblood said better directional signs are needed at Sandy Creek.

(2) Forest View Elementary "Week at the Creek" is being organized by FV teacher Linda Tugurian in late March. NHCCAC members were urged to participate if they have free time.

(3) Korest introduced Nicholas School grad student Katie Rose Levin, who is doing an environmental education plan for Leigh Farm. Katie remarked that she has a deep love for bottomland hardwoods.

(4) Table at Piedmont Wildlife Festival--Leigh Farm--May 15. Healy is making arrangements for this and can provide a table and two chairs.

(5) Leigh Farm concern—Debbie McCarthy said that the Rt. 54 Corridor Study (see [nc54-I40corridorstudy.com](http://nc54-I40corridorstudy.com)) had a planning alternative for "transit focused high growth" that would encourage dense development on Farrington Rd. west of I-40 and would also call for a new cloverleaf exit for I-40 that would intrude on Leigh Farm. Harrison noted that this would dump heavy traffic onto roads not scheduled to be widened. [Note: In response to Healy's inquiry on March 12, planner Leta Huntsinger said there were no plans for such an interchange and that the integrity of Leigh Farm would be respected.]

(5) Local government actions re. Hollow Rock (Orange Co. and CH are supposed to have plan approved by April 20). Harrison said Hollow Rock plan will come before CH Town Council on March 22.

(6) 15-501 Bridge and underpass. Harrison said that the bridge was listed as 70 percent complete but that the eastbound side was essentially done. Healy will put up on our website a link to an MA thesis from NC State that considers wildlife passage under the bridge. Kent said there will be a follow-up study.

(7) Bill Olive suggestion re proposal to state energy office for Hollow Rock Park solar

features. Members noted that this could be a good idea in the future, but could not be implemented until construction starts.

(8) Voting for Duke Lemur Center in Pepsi Challenge. Welch urged NHCCAC members to vote electronically for the project, which would direct \$50,000 to the Lemur Center to be used for a handicap accessible trail.

(9) Korest said Schuster (just leaving for a study trip in northern Mexico) had asked her to tell us that April 10 is the first workday of a stewardship effort on New Hope trails (especially the Githens School trail) that will include identifying permanent trail steward volunteers and environmental education.