

New Hope Creek Corridor Advisory Committee Minutes of Meeting of July 8, 2010

(Present: Bridgwater, Fowler, Goebel, Healy, Greg Schuster, Ed Harrison, Wendy Jacobs, Beth Timson, Bo Howes, Helen Youngblood, Jane Korest, Howard Lineberger)

- (1) Schuster says he is working on price quotes for boardwalking 250 feet of the trails that adjoins Chapel Hill Street Park. Jacobs asked whether this work could be done with volunteer labor. Schuster replied that a limitation is the size of the project. Howard Lineberger, who teaches at Durham Academy, said that his students are looking for Senior Projects, which involve volunteering 8 hours a week for two weeks. (Lineberger is generally interested in increasing involvement of Durham Academy with the New Hope, and particularly Sandy Creek).

Healy suggested that DA might set up a shop (they already have equipment) to fabricate boardwalk, or even bridge, sections off site, then move them to the parks and install as needed. There may be parents with woodworking skills that could supervise student work with saws, drills, etc. Priorities for such a shop might be the boardwalk for low spots of Chapel Hill Park Trail and lower portion of Mud Creek, Sandy Creek bird observation platform, and (provided design approval is secured) bridge repair at Sandy Creek and bridge construction on Durham portion of Hollow Rock trail.

Youngblood suggested that Githens Middle School could also be involved in trail construction and maintenance at Chapel Hill Street Park. Timson said the CH park will open by Sept. 1 if all work is completed. She said signage is needed to separate paved city park trail from unpaved county trail with which it connects. Timson said City is working with Tetra Tech on a study of Third Fork Creek, focused on water quality. Third Fork Creek Trail (paved) is to be done in 2011. Harrison said City is working though the list of impaired creeks.

Healy raised the possibility of naming a park feature at Sandy Creek for the later Ken Coulter, who had a special fondness for that park and was important in getting it set aside and developed. [Timson later sent Healy procedures for having us make such a nomination.] Youngblood said Ken's partner Dan Jewell could be asked for help with design and development.

- (2) Korest suggested that there be an overall master plan for Sandy Creek. Timson said there is a conceptual plan, prepared with public participation, and an old master plan. But now the south side of the creek has the restored wetland and the conservation easement. Timson said user count for Sandy Creek has an odd use pattern, with low use level, multiple activity peaks and some sex and drugs in the parking lot during the noon hour. Goebel said a culvert could be placed to help drainage on the trail. He said Structure House has trails nearby that could be connected to the Sandy Creek system. Lineberger said Durham Academy could be involved in a variety of ways with the park. He is especially interested in getting students involved with water quality. Kent said permits and delays are a recurring problem with getting trails built. Schuster said there is a standard bridge used on

the Appalachian Trail that might get City Engineer's approval so each design would not require a separate process.

- (3) 751 Assembly controversy. Healy was asked to re-send the NHCCACs comments to the elected bodies. Harrison and Youngblood said this is a good time for public education about land use and watershed. Jacobs said the BP oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico may have sensitized people to the environment. The Committee discussed encouraging creation of a new Friends of the New Hope organization that would cover a much larger area than that of the 1992 New Hope Plan, and might use our plan, and the multi-jurisdictional process that led to it, as a model. It might be called something like Friends of the New Hope Watershed to distinguish it from our much more geographically limited effort. It could include existing groups working on Third Fork Creek, Northeast Creek, and Bolin Creek. Harrison is working to have more attention paid to the many tributaries in the New Hope watershed in Orange County.