

**New Hope Creek Corridor Advisory Committee  
Minutes for Meeting of October 14, 2010**

(Present: Bridgwater, Fowler, Kent, Healy, Goebel, Jacobs, Jane Korest, Helen Youngblood, Howard Lineberger)

(1) Report on billboards and other city/county actions. Proposal for billboard ordinance change, which had been voted down by Durham City Council, was withdrawn by applicant on eve of hearing before County Commission. Since then, staff has found some existing billboards out of compliance because their worth has fallen below 50 percent of original value (recent state law has raised this minimum from 25 to 50 percent). Jacobs said Planning Commission is looking into rules for mixed use developments. Some changes can be made quickly, but it may take a year, and governing body action is necessary on plan amendments, to prevent future proposals located on land now far from services and planned for low intensity uses.

(2) Replacement for Greg Schuster—Korest said about 60 applications had been sent to her by Human Resources and a written questionnaire will be sent to the top 15. From these, a small number will be selected for interviews.

(3) Fall work days and park conditions—Lineberger said he and Durham Academy kids did a cleanup at Sandy Creek and plan another in November. They cleared part of the trail of sand—a chronic problem—and cleared lots of fallen limbs. The DA group moved a pile of rocks to fill the shallow “grave” that a fraternity had done for some sort of initiation. Kent asked Lineberger to look out for freshwater mussels in the creek.

We are told that Dan Jewell liked the bridge improvement idea as a tribute to Ken Coulter. The idea would be to build a wooden bridge over two of the existing I-beams. We need to follow up with him, and involve city staff for approvals. Youngblood said there are drawings available in conjunction with the wetland restoration that should be useful for our trail/birding platform planning. She suggested that we involve more neighbors, for example the Colony Park Homeowners Association. Perhaps we could get their mailing list to send information about what is happening at the park. Another possible partner is Structure House.

Neighbarger found that the “bird list” mailbox had detached from its pole, and he is repairing it. Lineberger said his class could do a habitat characterization for various areas in the park, so that people could have a better idea of the interaction of wildlife they observe or wish to observe and habitat. He said that several DA seniors have a project due in May 2011 that could involve building a bridge or deck. Two fallen trees have been reported on the Githens Trail—when this happens Jane Korest should be notified (until Schuster job is filled) and she will report to County maintenance staff.

(4) Goebel said the DOST needs our comments on its revised trail plan. He is creating a special site on Google Docs to receive comments.

(5) There will be a public planning meeting on Leigh Farm Park on Nov. 10. NHCCAC members are encouraged to attend, as this park has long been important to us and to the NH plan.

(6) Kent said we should invite Dale McKeel to present on city bike/ped activities, particularly on Old Chapel Hill Rd. [N.B. Dale or Mark Arensberg will present at our December meeting]