

New Hope Creek Corridor Advisory Committee Minutes of Meeting of December 9, 2010

(Attending: Berndt, Edeburn, Fowler, Healy, Goebel, Kent, Welch, Alan Dippy, Jane Korest, Randy Neighbarger, Dale McKeel, Guido Ferrari—trail user)

- (1) Korest said she liked the idea of the butterfly list for Sandy Creek Park and would like a list for the Githens trail. It was noted that kids like caterpillars as well as butterflies, so we may want to do some interpretation around them as well. Edeburn said he had an extra mail box we could use for butterfly list at Sandy Creek. Goebel noted that yet another car was broken into while a visitor was walking in Sandy Creek—the third or fourth occasion. Healy said Parks and Recreation said they would put up a surveillance camera, though these don't always capture all events.
- (2) Goebel said there were three geocaches in Sandy Creek Park. This can be a good outdoor activity, but we need to make sure that people don't go off trails in search of them in destructive ways. Healy suggested that we might encourage putting them in big trees so that people wouldn't wander around so much. There might be some possibility of educational value as well, e.g. identifying different species of trees.
- (3) Korest announced that Brendan Moore has accepted Greg Schuster's position with Durham County. Brendan had been parks supervisor in Carrboro and has lots of experience with trail design and land management.
- (4) Dale McKeel was introduced. He is Bike/Ped coordinator for Durham and delegate to the regional transportation planning organization. He works with the Bike/Ped Advisory Committee, chaired by Alan Dippy. McKeel noted that the 2006 Bike Plan and 2006 Pedestrian plan for Durham is on the city website. The Durham Open Space and Trails Committee is currently revising the trails and greenways plan and there was considerable discussion (thanks in great part to good maps brought by McKeel) at our meeting of how to integrate recreational trails and transportation trails (and sidewalks). [N.B. This discussion involved multiple people poring over maps while standing up, so it is impossible for this scribe to fully summarize it.] Much of the commentary concerned the project to connect Durham and Chapel Hill via a bike/ped path along Old Chapel Hill Road. Right of way will be acquired in 2011 and the project is expected to be finished in 2012. Also discussed was the idea of a connection between Durham and Chapel Hill along 15-501 via the widened shoulder of the new bridge and Sandy Creek Park. Healy noted that there were at least four major apartment complexes along the route (some of this density encouraged by the NHCCAC over the years), so that there was a rationale for a route additional to Old Chapel Hill Rd. for bikers and pedestrians wishing to access Durham via the Duke golf course trail. Guido Ferrari, who hikes and bikes both routes, made valuable suggestions.
- (5) Healy suggested that local governments look into having Chapel Hill busses that now stop near the Red Roof Inn on 15-501 extend their routes so that they could pick up and drop off passengers and cyclists at Patterson Place and New Hope Commons, avoiding the barrier to bike/ped traffic posed by the shoulderless bridge where 15-501 crosses I-40. This might actually save money, since it

would no longer be necessary for one of the Triangle Transit routes to go to downtown CH to interchange with CH Transit, but rather the connection could be made at Patterson Place.

Next Meeting 5 pm Thursday, January 13