

New Hope Creek Corridor Advisory Committee

Minutes of Meeting of April 12, 2012

(Present: Fowler, Healy, Kent, Welch, Korest, Bo Howes, Helen Fischer, Brendan Moore)

- (1) Sandy Creek Park. Healy said March 17 Creek Week cleanup was quite successful, with about 20 volunteers. Creek and surrounding area were surprisingly clean even before our work. The March 24 festival has little attendance because of steady rain, but all of our volunteers turned out. We could have handled perhaps 200 visitors with quality programming, a good sign for the future. A great deal of mulch has been spread around trees and at low spots on trails. This problem persists, though the flooding is not very deep. Moore suggested that we use flagstones or other stepping stones. If that doesn't work, a boardwalk is indicated. Moore noted that the trail in Chapel Hill Road Park (New Hope Bottomlands) is very wet and currently closed. Korest noted that the bottomlands are a unique ecosystem that is very educational, despite the trail problem. Healy said that documentation for naming the pedestrian bridge the "Kenneth R. Coulter Sandy Creek Bridge" was submitted to Durham Parks and Recreation on April 1 and is under consideration.
- (2) Chapel Hill. Berndt reported (via email) that she is attending a 2020 Comprehensive Plan meeting today—a second draft of the plan is available on the Town of Chapel Hill web site. There is also a new draft Greenways Master Plan and a draft Parks and Recreation Master Plan as part of the Comprehensive Plan process. They should be out for public comment in the next 2-3 months. CH Earth Day celebration will be Saturday, April 14 at Southern Community Park, from 12-5.
- (3) Maps. An extended dialog was had with Korest and Moore regarding the kind of city/county produced maps that could be most useful to the NHCCAC. It was determined that we would generally like the 24 x 36 inch format both for maps intended for display to the public and maps we could use to aid debate and decision making. The maps for the public would cover most of NH watershed. They could be laminated for display. Working maps would typically cover smaller sections of the corridor. Among suggestions were: more prominent contour line, including Durham city parks and TLC lands, labeling major park areas, noting locations of schools, mapping current trails and rights of way (if possible). DOST is working on inventory of planned trails.
- (4) Pickett Rd. Closing. There will be a public meeting on this subject, put on by the Durham-CH-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization at Trinity School on May 1 between 5 and 7 pm. It is primarily intended for neighbors, though our

members may want to attend just to remind the MPO of the importance and popularity of the new Hollow Rock Park. Trinity School's Board has already passed a resolution favoring the closing. Kent noted that at an earlier meeting on this topic, residents of Randolph Road were concerned about getting more traffic, though they are scheduled to get a light at the Randolph-Erwin intersection, which should help traffic flow. The closing of Pickett Rd. may accelerate the schedule for this improvement.

- (5) Leigh Farm. A "Festival for Wildlife" will be held there on Saturday, May 5. NHCCAC should have a table with exhibits. Healy and Goebel will arrange our participation. Owners of the large tract at the corner of Rt.54 and I-40 (entrance to Leigh Farm Park) are proposing to replace the office buildings (2 of 4 have already been built) with 310 apartment units. Setbacks, etc. will be as per previous plan. Healy and Harrison will attend a "neighborhood meeting" on April 10 to learn more about the developer's plans.
- (6) TTA scoping meetings. These will determine the issues covered by their EIS, so it is very important that our comments on the "cross country" crossing of the corridor by LRT get on the agenda. They will accept written comments until June 18, so it will not be necessary for us to submit a detailed document at these meetings. However, we can take advantage of them to sound out TTA on whether they will indeed be responsive to our environmental concerns.

5/2/2012: Regulatory Agency Meeting for Durham-Orange LRT, Extraordinary Ventures Center, Chapel Hill, 1-3 pm

5/2/2012: Public Scoping Meeting for Durham-Orange LRT, Extraordinary Ventures Center, Chapel Hill, 4-7 pm

5/3/2012: Elected Officials and Partners Meeting for Durham-Orange LRT, Durham Armory, 10 am-12 pm

5/3/2012: Public Scoping Meeting for Durham-Orange LRT, Durham Armory, 4-7 pm

- (7) Kent expressed concern that the county map on display at City Hall does not indicate as open space the large tract of land south of 15-501 and east of Garrett Road which was so identified by the New Hope plan and is, in any case, in the floodway or floodway fringe.

Next meeting 5 pm Thursday May 10 Garrett Farms Clubhouse