

New Hope Creek Corridor Advisory Committee—Minutes of Meeting of June 14, 2012

(Present: Edeburn, Goebel, Kent, Welch, Healy, Youngblood, Fischer, Bukowski, Howes, Alan Dippy, Korest, Moore, Harrison)

- (1) Per an email from Chris Berndt (who serves as chair of CH Greenways Commission) there is now a draft of a new CH Greenways Master Plan. It is available for public comment fall deadline) NHCCAC and contains a section on connections to Durham. Chris suggested that Bill Webster come to a future meeting and that we comment on the plan. The plan is part of a 2020 CH Comprehensive Plan. Chris wants to make sure that the latter incorporates the New Hope Plan by reference. [N.B. Harrison later raised this with planning staff and it will be done.]
- (2) Sandy Creek. Goebel said that someone had torn up grassy area with 4 WD vehicle. Need to better block auto access from road and parking lot onto grassy area. Healy reported that Parks and Recreation Department had approved our request to name the rebuilt bridge “Kenneth R. Coulter Sandy Creek Bridge”. We will have a naming event this fall, probably early Oct., at convenience of the family. We discussed a plaque, but those are easily stolen. It was suggested that we look into having letters sandblasted into one of the rocks blocking bridge entrance. [Healy later went to Fisher Sign on Hillsborough Road and found that we could get three lines sandblasted for about \$200— if we bring in and pick up the rock. There are several rocks already on site that would seem to work well, but we could also buy one from the Rock Shop, which could deliver to Fisher Signs nearby.]

Healy said that we might as well combine bridge event with some environmental education and outdoor recreation activities—bird walks, tour of present and planned park improvements, planting of butterfly garden in new location, environmental education done by Duke MEM students, geology exhibit.

Goebel estimated that new “bird observation deck” will cost \$1000 for permits and \$1600 for materials. Youngblood asked if NH Audubon could help with funding. Goebel said a group of Duke first year students will arrive for orientation in mid-August and could work on the deck. Durham Academy students have built bat houses. He will meet with Rosetta Radtke next Tuesday on design of new butterfly garden, the old one having been too close to the pond and flooded out. He said that the restored wetlands on west side of bridge are doing well, with native plants having taken hold.

- (3) TTA Scoping for Light Rail Corridor. Comments are due June 18. Kent is working on revision of his "alternative corridor" memo. The committee voted unanimously to submit the comments it had approved at its August 2011 meeting. These will be submitted to TTA along with Kent's memo and copy of NHCCAC correspondence with Linda Pearsall of State Natural Heritage Program re site values.
- (4) Geology exhibit. The exhibit we received from Chapel Hill Mineral Club has been retrieved from Orange County Parks and Recreation and is being held by Howard Lineberger. Helen Fischer and Stan Bukowski will work on "modernizing" the display, which contains a wealth of still relevant information on plate tectonics and the New Hope area, but which was put on display boards more than 20 years ago and is browned and unattractive.
- (5) Korest said that the Transportation Advisory Committee has tabled the request to close Pickett Rd. to through traffic, making it unfeasible to develop roadside parking for Hollow Rock Park. She said that after the planned light is installed at intersection of Randolph and Erwin Rd. this issue can be revisited.