

New Hope Creek Corridor Advisory Committee

Minutes of Meeting of September 13, 2012

(Present: Berndt, Goebel, Healy, Kent, Welch, Helen Youngblood, Brendan Moore)

- (1) Sandy Creek event, October 6. Healy described planning for dedication of bridge and memorial boulder to Kenneth R. Coulter. He said he would circulate a poster (attached below.)



New Hope Creek Corridor
Advisory Committee

Fall Celebration at

Sandy Creek Park

Saturday, October 6 11 am-1 pm



Hikes and birding for adults and teens

Environmental education for kids

Creek clean-up (co-sponsored with Keep Durham Beautiful)

12 noon Dedication of Kenneth R. Coulter Sandy Creek Bridge (Noted landscape architect Ken Coulter wrote the New Hope Creek Plan and the Plan for Sandy Creek Park)

12:30 pm Planting of butterfly garden--nature observation for people of all abilities

For more information, a map and plans in case of rain, visit Friends of Sandy Creek Park on Facebook

{In the event, the bridge dedication was very successful—photos can be seen on the Friends of Sandy Creek Facebook site}

- (2) Goebel reported other major improvements at Sandy Creek, including completion of a 1000 water tank to capture water from the roof of the restroom building to water plants, construction of a “porch swing” with a panoramic view of the property, soil improvements in the planting beds using “biochar” (ground charcoal) and chicken manure, placement of wood chips on trails, and application for permits for the wildlife observation deck near the upper pond. Several groups of new Duke undergraduates from “Project Build” helped with some of the work. Photos of the volunteers at work and other information may be found on the Friends of Sandy Creek Park Facebook site.

- (3) Youngblood showed a revised set of plans for the apartments on the New Hope side of Patterson Place. Kent observed that even the revised development plan infringes on the natural land identified in the Durham Inventory. A motion was passed asking Healy to contact the State Natural Heritage Program for comments, which are due by Sept. 24. The NHCCAC had already expressed concerns about these lands. Healy observed that he had recently seen a shopping center in Pennsylvania in which the storm water retention ponds used natural vegetation rather than unvegetated rip-rap stone. Welch noted that Durham Academy had done a good job with its storm water retention pond.

- (4) There was brief discussion of the proposed housing development (2 acre lots) adjoining the Johnston Mill TLC Preserve. We were told that Rich Shaw had not made comments on this. Healy repeated his suggestion that TLC approach the developer to see if adjustments beneficial to both parties might be made. Kent expressed concern about water quality impacts from construction near Old Field Creek, which has released considerable amounts of sediment into the creek.

(5) Transportation. Kent suggested that the NHCCAC comment on the regional (Metropolitan Planning Organization) transportation plan and suggest that a bike/ped connection be incorporated into any bridge modifications of the crossing over I-40 at 15/501 and Erwin Rd. This is clearly a long run proposition but it would be good to get it into the record. Kent said that Triangle Transit had received a number of agency comments suggesting that the light rail corridor in the New Hope area be (as the NHCCAC has advocated) in the right of way of Hwy. 15/501. Planner John Hodges-Copple has written a letter suggesting use of Old Chapel Hill Road for the crossing, another way of minimizing damage to the natural flood plain area.

(6) Berndt said that the hearing on the new Chapel Hill Parks and Open Space Plan has been put off until January 2013, with a February 2013 target for town council adoption.