

New Hope Creek Corridor Advisory Committee

Minutes of February 14, 2013

(Present: Berndt, Goebel, Kent, Healy, Welch, Bo Howes, Jane Korest)

- (1) Sandy Creek Park. It was noted that Brendan Moore, now on leave, will be returning March 11. Goebel said that over \$4000 in cash, as well as promises of volunteer labor, have been received, giving us the \$10,000 required for the DOST matching grant proposal, which was submitted in early January. The proposal involves, among other things, educational signage, ADA compliant picnic tables, a bike rack and a way to block cars from going onto the meadow. (The latter has been repeated in recent weeks, with considerable damage). We should hear about the grant in May.

We now have a building permit for the observation deck and we may start on the footings soon. John has sent a very nice thank you card to donors.

- (2) Hollow Rock. Korest said that Durham County is submitting a \$200,000 proposal to the NC Recreational Trails program, intended for the Erwin Road parking lot (\$120K) and bridges on the east side of Pickett Rd. (\$60-80K) The latter have to be professionally engineered. She said that Durham already has some funding for this project but Orange County does not and may wait until 2015-16. Official word on this proposal should be received by August. Kent asked if Hollow Rock could be placed on the National Heritage list.

- (3) Berndt said that the Chapel Hill Greenway Commission met in late January. Their final statement noted the possibility of a connection of the Dry Creek trail with Hollow Rock Park along Erwin Rd. and a future crossing of I-40 at 15-501 by a bridge or tunnel. Kent said that Orange County had discussed widening I-40 fairly soon. He noted that a large area north of Erwin Rd. drains into upper New Hope Creek. He raised the idea of a wildlife passage that could cross I-40 near New Hope Rd. He suggested that any widening project should include an environmental assessment of wildlife impacts.

- (4) Kent said that the third revision of the plan for Patterson Place apartments has not yet been submitted.