

New Hope Creek Corridor Advisory Committee

Minutes of Meeting of April 11, 2013

(Present: Berndt, Edeburn, Fowler, Goebel, Healy, Bo Howes, John Kent, Lynn Maguire; Chris Norcross, PSNC Energy; Walter Cole, S&ME Environmental Consulting)

- (1) Sandy Creek Park. Healy said that March Creek Week event was only lightly attended (cold weather + lack of publicity) but did result in creek cleanup and planting of butterfly garden. Three women from Durham Master Gardeners program set up an informational table—we should encourage them to attend future events. Goebel said footings are in place for the wildlife observation platform and the building permit it posted. New work must await word from DOST on our matching grant application—hopefully at April 17 DOST meeting. John suggested splitting the cleanup and the festival next year. We noted that in addition to the work on March 24, John Kent spent 5 hours cleaning the stream course.

John Goebel said there had been further damage to the meadow from vehicles and also that he had found what may be drug paraphernalia. He will alert the Durham police and suggest more patrols.

- (2) Kent updated us on planning for widening of I-40 north of 15-501 and the desirability of having a bike/ped underpass included in the policy document. Healy will work with him to make sure the wishes of the NHCCAC on this matter are included in the record.

- (3) Goebel said that national Trails Day is June 6 and Brendan Moore is looking for volunteers for a cleanup/trail maintenance at Old Chapel Hill Rd. Park.

- (4) Berndt said revised Chapel Hill Greenway plan adoption by Town Council has been delayed until May 29. The Greenways Commission will be able to submit comments by April 24. She said a new Bike Plan is being developed.

- (5) Chris Norcross with Public Service Co. of North Carolina (regional gas utility) described the proposed route of a new 12 inch, 27 mile long, pipeline meant to bring natural gas from the main north-south pipeline to serve the new Duke University steam plant. That plant has been converted from coal to natural gas with fuel oil backup. The new pipeline would generally follow road rights of way, and would be buried 4 feet deep. It would be steel, covered with brown or green epoxy, in 65 ft. sections.

The main potential impact on the New Hope corridor seems to be crossing of two creeks —New Hope Creek north of Turkey Farm Rd. (near TLC Johnston Tract) and

[unnamed tributary]. The latter is within Duke Forest. The New Hope Creek crossing will be drilled 10 feet below the creek; the second crossing does not have suitable soil/slope and is proposed to be buried in a trench, with the stream diverted for a day or two to allow construction.

The NHCCAC clearly has an interest in possible impacts from these two creek crossings. We believe that Triangle Land Conservancy and Duke Forest, which own property near the crossings, should take the lead in negotiating solutions that will minimize impacts both during construction and during pipeline operations. The NHCCAC is ready to comment or testify as the situation seems to demand.