

New Hope Creek Corridor Advisory Committee

Minutes of Meeting of October 9, 2014

(Present: Fowler, Goebel, Healy, Erin Crouse, John Kent, Bo Howes (Triangle Land Conservancy), Allan Dippy (Durham Bike-Ped), Tom Struhsaker (Colony Park Neighborhood))

- (1) Healy welcomed new committee member Erin Crouse, chair of and representative to the NHCCAC from The Chapel Hill Parks, Greenways and Recreation Committee. This is a new CH committee and replaces the committee formerly represented by Chris Berndt. Erin has lived in Chapel Hill for 11 years and is currently a graduate student in natural resources at North Carolina State University.
- (2) Sandy Creek Park. Goebel says that he and the host of volunteers are wrapping up the work promised under last years \$10K DOST matching grant. He reports a large monarch hatch, probably facilitated by the extensive plantings of milkweed and other monarch friendly plants that were put in place during the summer. He said that we are likely eligible for certification as a “Monarch way station” by the University of Kansas monarch project. Healy said the he is familiar with the UK project and that it is a worthy endeavor. Kent asked if TLC has a milkweed program. Goebel reported help from several volunteer groups, especially Duke Build. He said that Boy Scout installed the new barbeque grill next to the picnic shelter. On the negative side, he noted that an ATV has managed to gain access to the meadow, though fortunately not in extremely wet weather. Nonetheless there is damage. Healy reported on a successful stream and roadside cleanup as part of the Big Sweep campaign. The park and stream were remarkably free this time of floating and snagged junk. Goebel said the long awaited interpretive signs will go to the printer next week. They are based in actual photographs taken in the park. It may take until early December before they are returned for installation. The posts and backing are already in place.
- (3) Hollow Rock Park. No report on parking lot status in the absence of anyone from county government. Concern was expressed over the possible trade or sale of the modern home and its site (recently sold to Orange County by Triangle Land Conservancy) for a use that might be incompatible with the park. Healy will contact Rich Shaw for an update.
- (4) Developments in the NH Corridor. Healy reported receiving notices of several rezoning proposals in or near the corridor. (a) redevelopment of Straw Valley—in front of New Hope Commons—for mixed use (b) rezoning of a tract along south side of 15-501 just east of Patterson Place for commercial use (c) Sheetz gas station at intersection of 751 and I-40 (d) rezoning of about 40 acres including the “candle shop property) at 15-501 and Cornwallis from R-20 residential to a density that would accommodate more than 200 townhouses. The last development was considered to be the one most worthy of our close scrutiny. Tom Struhsaker, who lives in the development immediately adjoining the subject property reported on a meeting the proponent (Edens Land Corp. for Pulte Homes) held with the neighborhood. Struhsaker

expressed great concern for floodplain, density, tree cover and traffic generation issues. The committee expressed a strong desire to review the development proposal, starting with detailed floodplain maps. Healy will invite the developer to meet with us at our November meeting.