

New Hope Creek Corridor Advisory Committee Minutes of Meeting of January 8, 2015

Present: Crouse, Goebel, Healy, John Kent, Alan Dippy (Durham Bike-Ped), Bo Howes (Triangle Land Conservancy), Brendan Moore (Durham County)

Today we were unable to get into the Garrett Farms clubhouse. Since it was about 25 degrees "in the open" our meeting was necessarily brief!

- (1) We are long overdue in getting a representative from the Orange County Parks and Recreation Council. Neal Bench is the chair and Healy will get in touch with him.
- (2) Hollow Rock update. Moore said that contracts for the bridge construction are pending, and the target for completing the bridges and parking lots is February 2016. Healy is to contact Rich Shaw regarding future ownership/uses of the house that occupies the lot sold to Orange County by Triangle Land Conservancy.
- (3) Sandy Creek Update. Goebel said that the interpretive signs will go up soon. He suggests March 14 as the date for a ceremony to inaugurate the many improvements, from fence to plantings to the observation deck, that have been added to the park in the past 18 months. This would not be part of Creek Week, but could serve as yet another introduction and source of anticipation for that activity.
- (4) Development proposals. Youngblood said that a rezoning proposal for the corner of Cornwallis and 15-501 has been submitted to the Planning Department. Healy will go there next week to examine maps and talk with staff in preparation for submitting written comments regarding New Hope Plan issues the proposal may raise. He invited any other committee member to accompany him. Healy said that it is important for the bike commuter/recreationist community to participate in trail aspects of this project, as it represents the last link in a planned long distance trail. Youngblood also said that the Department has not yet received a formal submission from Coulter, Jewell, Thames regarding the proposed rezoning (to commercial) of the tract on along 15-501 east of Patterson Place. Healy noted that the New Hope Plan called for a "vegetative buffer" along 15-501 and called the corridor "an open space cushion between the Durham and Chapel Hill urban areas." The Plan also referred to open space as "an aesthetic link between Durham and Chapel Hill, while allowing the two communities to remain distinct."
- (5) Healy said that planning is well underway for "Creek Week" (March 21-28). This event involves many organizations, including the NHCCAC, and has been greatly increasing in size and scope every year. The New Hope corridor's role will be concentrated at Sandy Creek Park, with a stream cleanup, bird walks and night-time "frog events". There are opportunities for putting up tables and displays at Creek Week kickoff events March 21 & 22. There will be a Sierra Club sponsored panel on "Durham's Drinking Water: Past,

Present and Future” on Feb. 12 and the possibility of participating on a Creek Week “krewe” at Durham’s Mardi Gras parade Feb. 17.