

New Hope Creek Corridor Advisory Committee

Minutes of Meeting of March 12, 2015

(Attending: Crouse, Fowler, Healy, Welch, Kent, Brendan Moore, Jeff Fisher)

- (1) Moore gave an update on the condition of New Hope trails in Durham County. He said that the trail in the New Hope Bottomland (Chapel Hill Rd. Park) has been largely under water. He has been clearing many fallen trees. He said that he has laid out a new trail along Mud Creek, but that also is very wet. Kent spoke in favor of the use of large flagstones in muddy spots, rather than boardwalks. Moore said he was doubtful but would be willing to experiment with this approach.
- (2) Hollow Rock Park update. Moore said that he met yesterday with the Durham-Orange County Work Group and they are moving into the next phase of park development and see the need to amend the inter-local agreement. There is discussion of a name for the park, perhaps Hollow Rock Nature Park or Hollow Rock Natural Area. He said that there will soon be site plan approval for the parking lot and bridges and the schedule would permit an opening in early 2016.
- (3) Moore shared a copy of a compact neighborhood planning document that is being considered by the City of Durham. He said that the NHCCAC should review and comment on it.
- (4) TTA is having several open house meetings on the Light Rail proposal between Durham and Chapel Hill. Healy, Kent and others plan to attend.
- (5) Sandy Creek Park update. Healy said that there are several Creek Week activities planned for Sandy Creek, including a bird walk (March 21), a nighttime frog activity, and dedication of the park facilities constructed under DOST matching grants over the past year (March 28). A stream cleanup will take place the morning of the dedication so local officials and other attendees can see the volume of trash removed from the streams and parkland. Healy said that a Monarch Butterfly Festival is planned for fall 2016 to celebrate the amazing phenomenon (well documented on the Facebook site) of

the late summer hatch of Monarchs and their departure for their winter grounds in Mexico. Hundreds of Monarch friendly plants have been added to the park and it is now nationally designated as a Monarch Way Station. Healy also said that the Parks and Recreation Department has proposed building a climbing facility at the side of one of the settling tanks.

- (6) There was general discussion of developments in the New Hope corridor, including the Candle Shop property rezoning proposal (Cornwallis Rd) and the proposed rezoning along Garrett Rd. near the Yates Baptist Association.

- (7) Crouse reviewed improvements to the Bolin Creek trail in Chapel Hill. This is not in the New Hope planning area, but could offer connections, particularly if the proposed widening of I-40 north of 15-501 can offer an overpass or underpass that would be bike/ped friendly.

- (8) Jeff Fisher said that a developer is proposing to build 20 houses on 50 acres of the "Humphries Tract" at the corner of Whitfield Rd. and Erwin Rd. He noted that the Mann property adjacent to that parcel has an important rhododendron bluff. Jeff's Unique Places organization has that tract under contract. He would also like to remove an old hydroelectric dam on Duke Forest that is causing erosion. He will have a conference call next week with Duke's Dean Urban regarding this area.