

New Hope Creek Corridor Advisory Committee

Minutes of Meeting of April 14, 2016

(Present: Crouse, Goebel, Fowler, Healy, Kent, Moore, Youngblood)

- (1) Hollow Rock—Moore said that he met with Rich Shaw and Maribeth Carr to plan for a dedication on May 21 at 9:30 am. Parking will be at Forest View Elementary, with a shuttle. There will be a dedication ceremony and a guided hike. He said that there have been lots of trail re-routes, especially on the Orange County side. The parking lot, originally gravel, has been paved. Phase II of the Hollow Rock project will involve interpretive signs, including geology, archeology and history. A standard sign indicating a park is ahead will be placed along Erwin Rd. Kent cautioned about sight distances, given the rolling topography. Healy said that Jeff Fischer is working with Jan Gregg re a replacement building for the old store, after which it can be moved. Healy suggested that there be an outline (per Robert Venturi's famous Benjamin Franklin "ghost house" in Philadelphia) at the store location in the park (or construction of the foundation) along with signage so that visitors to the dedication will understand the project and potentially donate to moving it forward. It was suggested that the old New Hope Creek film (narrated by Reynolds Price) be shown on a computer monitor at the dedication.
- (2) Volunteer activity. Moore said that he and Goebel hosted volunteer teams for Earth Day (Earthshare NC). Moore's team worked on the New Hope Bottomlands Trail, which has been closed for months due to high water and water damage. He intends to replace the decking of the boardwalk by the end of summer. Another group hauled many bags of trash from the park. Goebel's crew planted many bushes and trees in Sandy Creek Park.
- (3) Sandy Creek Park. Planning is advancing for the October 8 Monarch Festival. Durham Academy has agreed to provide a shuttle bus from their parking lot. A group of Duke Medical students did work on the park. Also, New Hope Audubon Society erected a 13 foot chimney swift tower. Goebel distributed a fundraising brochure for the natural surface trail. Finishing the ADA trail, which honors Larry Stogner, is a priority. There are plans to have a \$100,000 fundraiser jointly with the ALS Association. Triangle Community Foundation has also been approached.
- (4) Cornwallis Rd. development. The developer has proposed a new plan, which is intended to go directly to City Council. There is a concern that part of the floodplain will be used for constructed wetlands (for storm water retention) that could overflow fairly frequently. Youngblood said that NCDOT intends to replace the bridge that takes 15-501 over Cornwallis Rd. The City has sent a letter to NCDOT voicing environmental concerns, many of them New Hope related. It is possible that the bridge replacement might require relocation of the box culvert that takes Sandy Creek under 15-501. NHCCAC needs to watch this project.
- (5) Chapel Hill report. Ed Harrison e-mailed:

My part of the Chapel Hill report would be a paragraph from last night's Town Council agenda. We voted to accept a donation of land next to a greenway in a high-end neighborhood a short distance from the main UNC campus:

The Town would receive approximately two acres of a 3.78-acre parcel without cost to the Town. The full parcel is currently appraised for tax purposes at \$425,317. The value of the donation would roughly be about \$212,500. That's totally undeveloped land appraised at \$218K an acre. This is in a neighborhood where a single room can rent to a student for an amount well into four figures. These folks acted for the greater good.

Crouse said that the Intergovernmental Park Working Group in Orange County is working on development of the Mountains to the Sea Trail and will hold a public meeting. The on-line Park Locator is being updated and will include all trails in Orange County regardless of which agency is responsible. The target date for this effort is October 2016.