

New Hope Creek Corridor Advisory Committee

Minutes of Meeting of June 23, 2016

(Present: Crouse, Fowler, Healy, Kent, Youngblood, Harrison, Maggie Ernest—Wildlands Network)

- (1) Kent said we need to make sure Rachel Hopkins, Durham Academy, is on the mailing list.
- (2) Hollow Rock Nature Park. The park officially opened June 5, with good weather and attendance, including several public officials. Commissioner Ellen Reckhow gave a history of the park creation, followed by Commissioner Wendy Jacobs and Charlie Welch. Rich Shaw led a guided nature hike.
- (3) Sandy Creek Park. A breakfast reception was held to honor Larry Stogner and to publicize the nature trail that will be built in his honor. WTVD made a very good fundraising TV spot

<http://abc11.com/society/durhams-larry-stogner-trail-needs-donations-/1380365/>

Plans are continuing for the Monarch Festival, October 8.

- (4) The Cornwallis Road (Candle Shop) rezoning was turned down by Durham City Council. It was done on a technicality, so it may be reversed. John Kent testified at the Durham City Council hearing on the Witherspoon Rose Garden application along Garrett Rd. He conveyed the concern of the NHCCAC regarding use of fertilizers and pesticides in the floodway fringe. Kent said that the applicant informed Council that they were avoiding the 100 year flood area and the Natural Heritage Area. Moreover, the facility is more a storage facility for plants grown elsewhere than a propagation area, so chemical use should be minimal.
- (5) Maggie Ernest spoke on behalf of the Wildlands Network. The Network is a national organization concerned with landscape scale (even continental) habitats, including quality and connectivity. In North Carolina, the organization is particularly concerned with wildlife road crossing. The Network is submitting a proposal to NCDOT to do a year of wildlife travel monitoring in the corridor under the 15-501 bridge over New Hope Creek. It would rely on a set of motion sensitive cameras and would compare the present condition with baseline data collected by NC State when the bridge was rebuilt several years ago, with specific provision made for wildlife passage. “Pitfall” traps would be used to census small terrestrial organisms.
- (6) The committee thanked Erin Crouse, who is rotating off the NHCCAC after several years of helpful and devoted service representing the Parks, Greenways and Recreation Commission of Chapel Hill. That body will appoint a successor. Crouse said that the Town Council had approved construction of the bridge over Morgan Creek. She also discussed public concern over coal ash in the fill for the police station near Bolin Creek.

No Meeting in July. Next Meeting Thursday, August 11.