

New Hope Creek Corridor Advisory Committee

Minutes of Meeting of September 8, 2016

(Present: Goebel, Healy, Welch, Kent, Jane Korest, Ed Harrison, Brendan Moore, Scott Whiteman)

- (1) Sandy Creek Park. Goebel reported that the response to the online campaign for funding the Larry Stogner Trail has been disappointing. Nonetheless, some \$11,000 has been raised for the project, some of which was spent on engineering drawings, now completed. About \$50-60,000 will be needed to finish this project. John Goebel will be meeting with new Durham General Services chief Steve Hicks at the park to show him this project and possibly seek surplus asphalt left over from other city projects. Goebel reported that about \$10,000 of \$15,000 needed for the natural surface handicapped trail has been raised.

Moore suggested that we write a grant proposal for Sandy Creek trails for the next DOST matching grant cycle, which has just begun.

The NHCCAC voted on and passed the following resolution and directed John Goebel to convey it to the relevant authorities:

Whereas, more than ten years ago, a developer along Mud Creek gave \$5000 to Keep Durham Beautiful as partial support for a Mud Creek Trail;

Whereas, these funds have never been expended;

Whereas, the Mud Creek Trail is not a short or medium term priority for implementation of the New Hope Plan, as overseen by the New Hope Creek Corridor Advisory Committee;

Whereas, there are immediate and “shovel ready” plans for trails in Sandy Creek Park, a heavily used New Hope conservation and recreation area;

Whereas, these trails are designed to make the park more accessible to people with physical disabilities;

Therefore, the New Hope Creek Corridor Advisory Committee requests that the \$5000 mentioned above be transferred to the Durham Parks Foundation and used for Sandy Creek trail projects.

Goebel reminded us that the Second Annual Monarch Butterfly Festival will take place on October 8, and that the planning committee for the festival will meet on September 14 at 3 pm at the Durham Parks and Recreation main office.

- (2) Hollow Rock Environmental Park. Moore said that replacement structure for the store is almost done, making the move of the old store possible in the next six months. Orange County has paid to remove lead paint from the old store. Phase II is bathrooms, interpretive signs, overlooks and an accessible trail. Healy suggested that we begin thinking of interpretative signs/displays for the old store, once moved to the park.
- (3) Scott Whiteman, of Durham City-County Planning will be their new representative to DOST and the NHCCAC, replaced the (much valued) Helen Youngblood. Scott is a planning graduate of Virginia Tech and has been working for Durham for ten years. Harrison said that Commissioner Ellen Reckhow, had asked the Metropolitan Planning Organization to reconsider the closing of Pickett Road to through traffic in the vicinity of Hollow Rock Park. This closing would enable the creation of more parking spaces, and is called for in the Hollow Rock Park Plan. Korest noted that the stretch of Pickett to be closed is in Orange County and OC must take the action. There may or may not be citizen objections, given that a light has now been installed at Randolph and Erwin. It was noted that the left turn from Pickett to Erwin is dangerous.
- (4) Whiteman said that the city and county of Durham have approved boundaries for compact neighborhoods near 5 proposed LRT stations. At least two more public meetings will be held. One major issue is how to handle the natural areas on the northeast section of the area. Harrison said that attention should be paid to stream buffers. Whiteman said that metro station planning in Arlington, VA is a good source of ideas. Healy added that they should look at how Montgomery County MD handled development around the Bethesda station. Discussion of University Ford proposed development along SW Durham Drive, zoning approved.
- (5) It was suggested that tree cutting on north side of 15-501 might be in violation. Healy will check on this. There is a proposed development at Garrett and Pickett, apparently by right. Healy said he had been to a presentation on a proposed expansion of the storage facility on Garrett Rd. Storage would produce less traffic than a residential or other commercial use but there may be issues of runoff and vegetation regeneration on compacted portions of the old driving range.
- (6) The NHCCAC needs a new member from the Chapel Hill Parks, Recreation and Greenways Commission. Also a member from Orange County Open Space Commission (attention Rich Shaw)
- (7) Harrison reported that the Bolin Creek trail across MLK Parkway had run into a coal ash problem.
- (8) Kent and Korest said that the Durham-Orange County Natural Heritage study will include the whole New Hope watershed, but particular attention would be paid to the upper New Hope watershed in terms of habitat connectivity among the New Hope, Neuse and Eno Rivers.