

New Hope Creek Corridor Advisory Committee

Minutes of Meeting of April 13, 2017

(Present; Fowler, Healy, Welch, Kent, Brendan Moore, Scott Whiteman, Bo Howes)

1. Composition of the Committee. Healy announced that Jennna Schreiber would attend future meetings as the representative of Duke Forest. Duke Forest management recognizes that it is an important stakeholder in the New Hope. In Orange County Rich Shaw has retired. We hope that when his replacement is hired, he/she will participate in our meetings. Healy will contact Chapel Hill regarding their mandated representative.
2. Sandy Creek Park report. Healy said that John Goebel and many volunteers have made substantial progress on the natural surface trail between the wooden bridge and Garrett Rd. Work will continue all spring and summer and many volunteers are needed. Healy said that the Headwaters Chapter of the Sierra Club is committed to publicizing volunteer needs among the 800 or so people on their MeetUp site. He also said that the Cambiando Caminos Latino student group at Durham Tech would like to do a work day.
3. Hollow Rock report. Moore said that county approval has been secured to apply for a \$100 K federal grant (\$25K local matching) to build a handicap accessible loop trail. Orange County will take the lead in writing the proposal. This trail will require boardwalks. Moore said he would like to see the old barn renovated. He said that Orange County staff (Peter Sandback) is starting to think about repairs to the old store and exhibits inside it. Healy said that we should invite Peter S. to present at a future meeting. Moore is constantly repairing the trail in the New Hope bottomlands but does not need volunteers at this time.
4. Rezonings/Land Use. Whiteman said that the parcel on the SW corner of Pickett and Garretts Rds. had applied to be developed as a cluster subdivision of single family homes at a density no higher than current zoning. This would not require council/planning commission approval except for the annexation. Edens Land Corp. is the designer. The developer will keep about half the tract in open space and dedicate a trail easement along Mud Creek. Healy said that we would like to work with the developer on the open space and trail to make sure it was as consistent as possible with the New Hope Plan.

Whiteman said that the Cornwallis Rd./candle shop property is to be developed for single family homes under "by right" current zoning. A trail easement will be dedicated as per the New Hope Plan and DOST Plan. This trail has been designated by Council as one of the 5 priority trails in Durham. Healy said that we need to start to think about specific design issues for the entire trail from where it leaves Sandy Creek Park, including cost estimates (e.g. including the bridge needed to cross Sandy Creek on the candle/shop property).

5. Kent said that he had attended a Metropolitan Planning Organization meeting and raised the issue of the possible change in the location of the LRT station at Patterson Place. He repeated this committee's concern over this, mainly connected with induced development in/near the New Hope corridor.

Kent also said that Ron Sutherland had received an NCDOT grant for cameras that would track wildlife movement under the 15-501 bridge and sophisticated cameras had been purchased.

Next meeting Thursday, May 11.