

New Hope Creek Corridor Advisory Committee

Minutes of Meeting of July 12, 2018

(Attending: Fowler, Healy, Schreiber, Smith, John Kent, Ed Harrison, Brendan Moore)

- (1) Sandy Creek Park. Goebel reported that construction of the boardwalk/trail from bridge to Garrett Rd. has been completed after much work by him and many volunteers. Sierra Club will hold a picnic the evening of August 12 to view the Perseid meteor shower. Goebel said that Monarch Festival was cancelled for this year. Healy said, however, that he is working with North Carolina Museum of Science, in Raleigh, and the Consul General of Mexico to put on a monarch event at that museum on October 13. He suggested that if there are monarchs breeding in Sandy Creek Park, Sierra Club and New Hope Audubon could have a day hike there.
- (2) Moore said he was doing trail maintenance. There have been recent tree falls on New Hope Bottomlands loop trail. Orange County is taking responsibility for interpretive signs at Hollow Rock. They may wait for another proposal cycle. There is an outstanding NSF proposal through Duke for interpretive signs at New Hope Bottomlands.
- (3) We discussed getting specific about New Hope Trails, as requested by Durham Parks and Recreation. Healy said that a priority should be the trail from end of Sandy Creek Trail on Pickett Rd. to Cornwallis Rd. and beyond. We will work jointly with Trails Committee of DOST.
- (4) There was a meeting held by Durham Planning on May 29 on Compact Neighborhood Plan for Patterson Place. Kent said that meeting materials, and opportunity for comment is online at Planning Dept. site. At our August meeting, we will consider a resolution to support staff proposals for protection of steep slopes and stream buffers along Dry Creek. Smith said that DOST would do the same at their August meeting, which follows ours. Harrison said that the recent Patterson Place Apartment development, and others, indicated that Durham staff had too much responsibility for considering many aspects of developments, with insufficient opportunity for public input and input from elected officials. Kent said that consideration of grading plans would be one place to start.
- (5) Harrison said new UNC building (a single tall building with a parking deck replacing smaller buildings) at Eastowne might need our attention, depending on citizen comment. There will be a new stream crossing, but overall less impervious surface. Harrison said that we might support the stream crossing because it could help later with bike/ped accessibility beyond the site.
- (6) Schreiber said that Duke Forest is launching a new citizen science project and is starting leader training.
- (7) Fowler said that the New Hope Improvement Association will have an ice cream social on Sunday, July 22 from 2-4 pm.