

New Hope Creek Corridor Advisory Committee

Minutes of Meeting of January 10, 2019

(Present: Fowler, Goebel, Healy, Hogan, Welch, Schreiber, Kent, Korest, Moore, Howes)

- (1) Patterson Place Compact Neighborhood. Healy and Kent said that they had attended presentations by Lisa Miller (Durham Planning Staff) on their draft proposals for the Compact Neighborhood plan and regulations to both City-County Work Group and Planning Commission. These were just informational presentations. First hearing will be before Planning Commission February 12. The NHCCAC reiterated its support for a plan that (1) protects steep slopes as proposed by staff and (2) requires that any development within 300' of the compact neighborhood boundary require a special use permit from City Council. The Committee noted that current staff proposal of 200' was far less protective than the original proposal for a 300' SETBACK from the floodplain. Moreover, we have consulted with six people knowledgeable about wildlife corridors and all have recommended the 300' ft. permit requirement as the minimum needed to protect corridor values.

It was also noted that special use permits have a list of requirements that may not be sufficient to protect corridor values. This might involve lighting for example, where it may be necessary to impose a requirement stricter than the city ordinance applicable to all properties. We should add specific language about protecting the New Hope Corridor to the special use permit standards that would pertain to it. Schreiber said that there were preliminary findings from the regional wildland connectivity study that specifically mention the New Hope Corridor. We should include those, or at least a reference to them, in our proposed list of standards. Healy said we should also look at how design standards might interact with New Hope corridor values.

Healy intends to testify and submit our written comments on February 12. In the meantime, he will circulate proposed comments for NHCCAC approval.

- (2) Our comments on Patterson Place will also mention provision for a bike-ped trail on the north side of 15-501, including an at grade crossing of New Hope Creek on the north side of the existing highway bridge.
- (3) Sandy Creek Park. Goebel said that there may be a Monarch Butterfly festival in the park this fall. He said that the board walk to Garrett Rd. will be formally dedicated this spring. The ADA trail has been submitted to Durham's new Participatory Budgeting process, with neighborhood support. There will be some sort of voting process in May. Goebel said that the beavers are still actively flooding the paved trail. Fish and Wildlife Service and USDA may help financially and with advice, but have been unable to come to the part because of the government shutdown. Parks and Rec. have said that city money may also be available to help with the beaver impacts. Healy said that Creek

Week this year will be March 16-23. We will have a cleanup at Sandy Creek at 9:30 on March 23. Healy will also ask Nikki Cagle of Duke to put on another of the very popular night time frog events.