

New Hope Creek Corridor Advisory Committee

Minutes of Meeting of March 14, 2019

(Present: Fowler, Goebel, Healy, Welch, Kent, Korest)

- (1) Sandy Creek Park. Healy said that the Headwaters Group of the Sierra Club was sponsoring three events at the park during Creek Week, March 16-23—a Frog Walk at night, a Beaver night, and a cleanup. Details on Sierra Club Meetup site. We talked about the problem of an apparently increasing beaver population raising the water level in ponds and damaging trails. Goebel took some amazing movies of beavers repairing a breach in their dam—it is posted on Sandy Creek Facebook site and was shown on WTVD. He said that USDA would install a drainage system developed by Clemson University, for \$7500. It would be much less if we did the work ourselves. Korest said that the city should pay for it on grounds that muddy trails are slippery and could lead to injured members of the public. Goebel said that planning for Monarch (and Beaver?) festival has already begun—it is scheduled for October 12.
- (2) Several people noted the large clearcut done on Duke Forest land on northeast corner of Erwin Rd. and Cornwallis. We are wondering what is going on.
- (3) Patterson Place Compact Neighborhood. Healy said that he testified (orally and submitted written testimony) to Planning Commission on February 12. The Commission will vote on April 9. Healy said that he will testify before City Council and County Commissioners. He will continue to defend our position that a 300 foot setback from the Compact Neighborhood boundary line should require a special use permit from the City Council. He said that we need to review the criteria for a special use permit in this area to make sure that all New Hope issues are covered. There were questions as to whether City rezoning was needed for properties after the Compact Neighborhood plan was approved. What will be the role of Durham County in deciding the future of this area?
- (4) Korest said that Brendan Moore's wife is about to have a baby and Brendan will be taking April-May-June for paternity leave. Korest asked that

committee members volunteer to help her with week inspection walks on New Hope bottomlands and Hollow Rock trails to make sure that they are well maintained. Healy said that he would try to recruit Sierra Club members to help with this.