

New Hope Creek Corridor Advisory Committee

Minutes of Meeting of November 14, 2019

(Present: Fowler, Goebel, Healy, Schreiber, Smith, Kent, Harrison, Howes, Moore, Lance Fontaine (Durham Watershed staff), David Anderson (New Hope Audubon))

- (1) Moore said that the developer of Solis Patterson Place (large new apartment complex on eastern side of Patterson Place) has to make modifications to the trail linking the complex to the New Hope Bottomlands if erosion is to be avoided. They have paved part of the connection to the Bottomlands Trail. Moore said that Hollow Rock Park is getting intense public use. There are some trees down near Hanging Rock that will have to be removed by Orange County, which manages the park.
- (2) It was noted that Kim Livingston, Orange County conservation land manager klivingston@orangecountync.gov and Christian Hirni, Orange County forest ranger orangencfs@ncagr.gov, should be getting our minutes and meeting announcements.
- (3) Lance Fontaine described the City of Durham's stormwater agency's intention to do a watershed study and plan for the New Hope and solicited our input. He distributed three maps and invited us to indicate problem areas. Field work by a consultant will be done in December. They are looking at both old and new stormwater control measures. The study area is Durham City only, not the whole county. Third Fork Creek is included but some work has already been done there. They will do microbial source tracking in Northeast Creek, where the worst problems are anticipated.
- (4) Schreiber described the recent 27 acre land purchase by Duke Forest, on Eubanks Rd. in Orange County. It will be added to the existing natural heritage area and be used for research.
- (5) Goebel said he is still working on the beaver levelers, which are being fabricated by USDA. One will be on the main pond, one on the lower pond. He spoke about the history grove which will be located at the site of the now removed settling tank. There will also be an improved sidewalk and benches. He said that the sewer pipe connecting the bathroom to the main sewer failed in October and the City has been very slow to fix it.
- (6) Harrison said that there is a new Go Triangle transit advisory committee. He will continue to advocate for BRT on 15-501 and preserving the LRT route. The lead in transit planning is being taken by the MPO, not Go Triangle. At the October MPO meeting a new proposal was advanced for BRT using the 15-501 median. Kent said that the Garrett Rd. interchange is close to being put out to bid by NCDOT.
- (7) Harrison said that UNC Hospital is interested in intense development at the Eastowne site, much of it commercial. Diagrams were distributed today showing the proposed to clear 2/3 of the mesic forest remnant adjacent to I-40. Anderson suggested that this could be covered by the Daily Tarheel.