

New Hope Creek Corridor Advisory Committee

Minutes of Meeting of September 21, 2023

(Present: Goebel, Myatt, Flinn, Healy (co-chair), Anderson, Jane Korest, Ed Harrison, Bo Howes, David Bradley)

- Healy welcomed Dave Anderson as a new member of the NHCCAC, representing Orange County landowners. There are still three open positions. The Chapel Hill Park and Recreation Commission was to have selected a representative last week. Healy will contact Duke University regarding their appointment. The remaining position is for a Durham County landowner. Korest suggested we look for someone with knowledge of the Hollow Rock area. Healy said that we might extend this to the entire main stem of the New Hope. He said it is important to find a member who does not just represent a neighborhood interest, but who is interested in the New Hope corridor as a whole. He said that we welcomed Korest's advice in this matter.
- Korest said that Durham County has been working with landowner and longtime friend of the New Hope, Carolyn Penny, on county purchase of 7.5 acres of land on the east side of Pickett Rd as an addition to Hollow Rock Park. The land is already subject to a conservation easement. It should be on the consent agenda of the next County Commissioner meeting. Bradley said there have been discussions between Durham and Orange counties regarding moving to Phase II of the Hollow Rock plan. He said that community engagement should precede any final decisions. Durham County already has funds available for this but Orange County does not. Gail Boyarski has been working with Judd Edeburn and Peter Sendek on a possible historical exhibit for Hollow Rock store. Flinn said there was a movement in Orange County for more community driven centers, of which this might be one. Korest said that the NHCCAC might send to Orange County Parks Department its endorsement of Phase II and of exhibits in Hollow Rock Store. We might also comment during Orange County budget hearings.
- The Committee noted the many contributions made by Jane Korest over more than 30 years to the protection of the New Hope corridor and opening it up to public use. She has been an invaluable source of planning expertise. We congratulate her on her retirement from Durham County after 38 years of service. The NHCCAC considers Jane a true Friend of New Hope Creek.
- Arrowhead area plan. Myatt said that the area is not within the urban boundary, although the City of Durham and Durham County have not yet taken the final vote. Healy said that during the recent public hearing a single landowner spoke in favor of changing the plan to allow intense development. Healy had prepared a letter on behalf of the NHCCAC showing how the plan change would be inconsistent with the New Hope

Plan. The letter also emphasized that the NHCCAC has often supported intense development in other areas, such as along or near 15-501 that was in areas better provided with transportation and other infrastructure.

- Healy said that he has spoken with Three Oaks Engineering, which told him they had not done work on the Pickett Road property. They had been very involved in runoff analysis used in the New Hope watershed plan. Healy said that he had recently spoken with William Schlesinger, former dean of the Nicholas School at Duke, who is a frequent birder in Sandy Creek Park. Schlesinger is willing to write a letter on his use of the park if needed in a future rezoning of the nearby Pickett Road parcel. Healy said it was important to have park users, many of whom are not neighbors, participate in consideration of any proposed development that might impact the park. Healy asked Bo Howes to see if Triangle Land Conservancy or the Conservation Fund might be of help in working with the landowner toward a use of land adjoining the park that would be satisfactory to all parties.