

## **New Hope Creek Corridor Advisory Committee**

### **Minutes of Meeting of March 28, 2024**

(Present: Pugh, Fowler, Flinn, Healy, Welch, Myatt, Harrison, Bo Howes, Dave Bradley)

- (1) Mt. Moriah apartment project. The project proposes to build 900 or more units of townhomes and apartments on the west side of Mt. Moriah Rd. north of 15-501. The site itself does not seem to be of high ecological value, though we must consult experts from the Eno-New Hope corridor study on this. A significant issue is traffic. Many residents are likely to use Erwin Rd. rather than 15-501 to travel toward Durham. This could put great pressure on the part of Erwin between Cornwallis Rd. and 751, much of which borders Duke Forest. Pugh said he was critical of the project's traffic analysis. He said that when Chapel Hill allowed Durham to handle rezoning of the property (which is in Orange County) it said there should be a continuous open space corridor within the property.
- (2) Bradley said that Durham County was interested in acquiring land on the east side of Mt. Moriah. Developer might be interested, but wants to postpone any deal until rezoning so as to retain development credit for land that cannot be built on.
- (3) Bradley said he had received a comment from a citizen saying the landowner of the Mt. Moriah property had blown up a beaver dam.
- (4) We discussed obtaining and organizing the long term water quality data that has been collected by John Kent. Several members expressed concern that we had not seen John in a long time. Healy later checked and John is OK.
- (5) We still need a member from Duke Forest/Duke University. Healy will see if someone from Emily Bernhardt's lab, which has been doing lots of research in the New Hope drainage in Duke Forest, would be interested. If so, he would ask Duke if the person would be acceptable as a representative.
- (6) Bradley said that there was an opportunity for Durham County to acquire a multi-acre parcel on the West side of Garrett Rd. near the old dog care "castle" with multiple unnamed creeks draining into Sandy Creek and the New Hope. He proposes applying for a state open space grant to fund this. The NHCCAC voted unanimously to endorse the county's grant application and asked Healy to send a letter of support (which he did).
- (7) Myatt said that the open space committee of DOST is discussing how they might be involved in the planning process. Healy said that in the past, the NHCCAC would send a memo analyzing a new project to DOST and then DOST would draft its own letter.

(8) Howes said that he had brought an ecological plan for the New Hope corridor done by the Eno-New Hope corridor group to the Chapel Hill Town Council, which then referred it to the town Environmental Committee.