

New Hope Creek Corridor Advisory Committee

Minutes of Meeting of April 25, 2024

(Present: Flinn, Healy, Myatt, Dave Bradley, Ed Harrison)

- (1) Coordination with Eno-New Hope “Triangle Connectivity Collaborative”. Healy said that this group, which is composed in great part of people with ecological expertise, has been meeting for over three years. They have collected a great deal of information on ecological conditions in the New Hope corridor, including on movement of wildlife and on organisms heretofore not studied or where available information has not been put into land use plans (e.g. moths, butterflies). When recently asked by Brooke Massa if they would like to make a statement regarding the Mt. Moriah Rd. development, very few were willing to sign on. They cited either the constraints of their current job or their unwillingness to become involved in “political” decisions. Healy suggested that an alternative would be for individual members or the group as a whole communicate information to the NHCCAC, which could use it in our own analysis and comments. This should be consistent with the New Hope Plan, since it enriches and gives further support to its recommendations rather than conflicting with them. Bradley will meet next week with Brooke Massa and Celeste to discuss this. The Connectivity Collaborative has a website <https://connectedconservationnc.org/> and has provided information to the NC Natural Heritage program. We will put a link to the Collaborative site on www.newhopecreek.org
- (2) Mt. Moriah Rd. housing development. We have not yet made comments on this. In general our concerns are with (a) traffic on Erwin Road (b) the fate of the small parcel on the east side of Mt. Moriah. Bradley said it is likely that this will not be developed and will eventually be sold or donated to the county or some other management entity.
- (3) Pickett Rd. development. Myatt said there was a proposal for annexation (possible rezoning) of two single family parcels down Pickett Rd. on the other side of Garrett Rd.
- (4) Healy said that the NHCCAC still needs a member named by Duke University. Healy said that Emily Bernhardt’s Lab (Duke Biology Department) had several people working on New Hope projects but when he checked her web page this week he could no longer find reference to them. Harrison said that the Duke Forest Advisory Committee might be a good source of potential members.
- (5) Flinn said that the new capital improvement plan of the Orange County Parks and Recreation Commission does not have funding for Phase IV of Hollow Rock Park and is unlikely to do so in the next 2 years.