

# **New Hope Creek Corridor Advisory Committee**

## **Minutes of Meeting of August 22, 2024**

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

- (1) Healy said that neither of the two developments we have been following most closely—the Pickett Road high rise and the 1000 unit development on Mt. Moriah Road has yet been scheduled for hearing before the Planning Commission. He said that the new Durham development tracker—which is quite convenient—has a provision for leaving comments on a given development. Healy said he had left a long comment on the Pickett Road development, raising the issues of proximity to the park, water runoff and traffic which we had discussed. His comment was made as a private citizen, not on behalf of NHCCAC. Several other people had also left comments. He encouraged NHCCAC members to add comments of their own. Healy said that he had also sent an email to Durham mayor and council, again as a private citizen, raising the more general issue of why high density was being approved at the edge of the city, remote from jobs and not served by public transit, while there were still many locations closer to Durham that would be better suited to high density. He said that in his opinion Durham was creating an unbalanced portfolio of housing, with too many high density rentals and not enough single family and townhouse units (which would pay high per unit property taxes.) Harrison commented that the price of land made low density development infeasible anywhere in the city.
- (2) Bradley said that a grant had been received from Bert's Bees for interpretive signage on the New Hope Bottomlands Trail. Healy said that the Bottomlands are probably the most ecologically interesting of all the protected land in the New Hope. He suggested that instead of a few signs with lots of information, smaller signs identifying wildlife, plants and trees be used in places where they might be seen. They could be embedded in railings where those were available. Welch said that the Atamasco Lily was one interesting species found profusely in the Bottomlands. Howes said that multiple signs were used in the Johnston Mill Preserve.
- (3) Healy said that at a recent visit to Sandy Creek Park it seemed as though the water level might be too high due to non-functioning of the Beaver Deceiver. Howes said that this was just due to recent heavy rain and that the water level in general was OK. Welch said he recently observed a couple of (city?) technicians looking at the bridge at Sandy Creek and that they had found a couple of weak spots.
- (4) Orange County and Chapel Hill Parks advisory boards had not met during summer.

(5) The Triangle Connectivity Collaborative will have a field visit from 1:30-4:00 on September 12, starting at NC Botanical Garden in Chapel Hill. Healy will be in touch with them to encourage continuing communication with the NHCCAC.