



D U R H A M 2011

Open Space & Trails Commission

M I N U T E S

November 16, 2011
2nd Floor, Committee Room
Wednesday, 7:00 p.m.

Members Present: Jeffery Bakalchuck, Toby Berla, Glen Bowles, John Goebel, JoEllen Mason, Annette Montgomery, Deborah Morgan, Jason Nelson, Ellen Reckhow, Reynolds Smith, David Smudski, Tom Stark, LaDawanna Summers, Charlie Welch, Will Wilson

Members Excused: Kelly Bryant, Jr, Bo Glenn, Mike Woodard

Members Absent: Dan Clever, Artemis Holden

Staff Present: Jane Korest, Paul Wiebke, Helen Youngblood

Guests Present: Bill Bell, Peter Katz, John Kent, Mel Norton, Mike Shiflett

I. Call to Order 7:00pm Chairman Will Wilson

II. Approval of Minutes

- By unanimous consent, the October minutes that were distributed by Deborah on October 28, 2011 were approved.

III. Agenda Adjustments

None

IV. Consent Agenda

- By unanimous consent, Frances Kerr was appointed to a 2-year term as an Associate Member of the Open Space Committee

V. Announcements

None

VI. Presentations

Duke Diet and Fitness Center

Mr. Paul Wiebke presented information about the possible retrofit of this property to treat stormwater if the City purchases it.

VII. Committees

Glen gave the Open Space Committee report.

John Goebel gave the Education Committee report.

No report was given for the Matching Grants Committee.

Annette agreed to: 1) write a letter to the Durham County Manager requesting re-instatement of funding for the Matching Grants Program in FY2012-2013, and 2) copy the Board of County Commissioners.

John Goebel gave the Trails Committee report (attached).

Deborah will: 1) email the City Clerk to request that future Trails meetings be held in the 2nd Floor Committee Room, and 2) copy Helen.

Annette and Helen gave the Development Review Committee report.

No report was given for the Finance Committee.

LaDawna gave the Bylaws Committee report.

John Goebel gave the report for the New Hope Creek Corridor Advisory Committee.

Toby Berla gave the report for the Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Commission.

Deborah gave the report for the Earmark Committee.

Will gave the report for the Farmland Preservation Board.

VIII. New Business

Crossing of Light Rail Line Across New Hope Creek Corridor

Motion: Moved by Deborah to take from the table the motion regarding the transit crossing of the New Hope Creek Corridor.
MOTION CARRIED.

Motion: Moved by Tom to amend the main motion by inserting the text shown in brackets:

Therefore be it resolved that the Durham Open Space and Trails Commission strongly endorses the concept of a light rail transit and/or bus rapid transit corridor using the right-of-way of Highway 15-501 [**or other existing road corridor in a manner so as to minimize the environmental impact**] as it crosses the New Hope Creek Corridor/Floodplain and the Sandy Creek Corridor/Floodplain.

MOTION CARRIED.

Motion: Moved by Deborah at the October 19th meeting, and amended as above:

Whereas, the Durham Open Space and Trails Commission is committed to protecting the integrity of important local open spaces and the educational and recreational qualities of local trails, and;

Whereas, Triangle Transit's Conceptual Alternatives Technical Report: Durham-Orange County Corridor Alternatives Analysis, dated 1/28/2011, shows the locally preferred alternative (LPA) for the light rail line crossing the New Hope-Sandy Creek Corridor/Floodplains (as shown in the adopted New Hope Creek Corridor Open Space Master Plan) in locations that would degrade the quality of important open space and natural area lands, and;

Whereas, the LPA route would reduce the educational and recreational qualities of the New Hope Bottomlands Trail, and;

Whereas, detailed comments by the New Hope Creek Advisory Committee (NHCCAC) and the North Carolina Natural Heritage Program have identified these impacts, particularly habitat alteration and interference with wildlife movement as a result of both the construction process and the erection of the permanent structures and creation of usage corridors, and;

Whereas, the Durham Open Space and Trails Commission concurs in the concerns raised by NHCCAC and NC Natural Heritage Program, and;

Therefore be it resolved that the Durham Open Space and Trails Commission strongly endorses the concept of a light rail transit and/or bus rapid transit corridor using the right-of-way of Highway 15-501 or other existing road corridor in a manner so as to minimize the environmental impact as it crosses the New Hope Creek Corridor/Floodplain and the Sandy Creek Corridor/Floodplain.

MOTION CARRIED.

It was agreed that Will would: 1) write a letter to the agency taking comments on the transit plan and include this resolution, 2) send copies to the appropriate boards, commissions, and bodies, 3) distribute a draft of his cover for comments, but that he would use his discretion to incorporate any comments received.

IX. Adjournment

By unanimous consent, the meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM.

Minutes prepared by Deborah Morgan, Secretary

Staff Contact: Helen Youngblood, Senior Planner
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DOST Trails Committee
November 8, 2011

- 1) Update on Third Fork Creek Dedication. We have heard nothing definite on this. The dates proposed at the October meeting did not work out for others involved.
- 2) GIS Mapping Update - Helen and Rosetta report good progress. Tyler Waring will attend our December meeting to show us how it works. Hopefully we can use the maps for our trail descriptions/web page/cut sheets as well as determining ownership/rights-of-way for ranking trails
- 3) Adopt-a-Trail Grant - Sandy Creek - Wood will be delivered Friday or early next week. There will be a small workday Saturday (12th) if wood arrives this week. The major push will be a workday next Saturday (19th) with some thirty volunteers from Duke, New Hope and DOST
- 4) Wit success on two Adopt-a-Trail grants, we are looking for another idea soon. Videos for the trails were discussed, but nothing definite was decided. We might check with the folks at Ellerbee Creek to see if they have any ideas.
- 5) Earmark for Rail Corridor Acquisition – Deborah Morgan and John Goebel will attend the meeting on this on Monday, November 14, 2011.
- 6) MPO Transportation Priorities (Trails, Sidewalks, Bike Path) We discussed the items that pertained to Trails, namely the W. Ellerbee Creek, Duke Beltline, Rocky Creek. Since these closely correlate to our Trail Priorities, we were glad to see them on this list.
- 7) Trail Descriptions, Maps, Walking the Corridors - Need to set up a schedule walks on all corridors of future trails. Winter is a good time to do this.
- 8) Master Plan Progress - The Trails Master Plan will go to the City Council on December 5th and to the Board of County Commissioners on December 12th. At least one member of the Trails Committee will attend these meetings. We will also try to have a representative at the city work session which is at 1:00 on the 22nd of November.
- 9) Helen asked us to thing about items for the Planning Department budget for next year. As usual, we would like some printing of maps, but perhaps also some assistance with getting good maps and descriptions of trails on our website.