

Greenways Commission Meeting Agenda
Monday, January 9, 2017; 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm
Carrboro Town Hall, Room 109

- I. 6:30 pm – Call to Order (Chair)**
 - a. Adjustments to the agenda**
 - b. Approve minutes – (November 14, December 12th)**
- II. 6:40 pm – Special Presentation experiences building natural trails, mainly single-track bike trails (Stuart Bryan)**
- III. 7:10 pm - Updates**
 - a. Rails-to-Trails program and use of rail right-of-way (Rob Crook)**
 - b. Homestead-Chapel Hill High School MUP (staff)**
 - c. Other Updates**
- IV. Future visits to see other trails such as Briar Chapel and Little River Park**
- V. 8:00 pm – Announcements/adjourn**

**Carrboro Greenways Commission
Minutes
November 14, 2016**

Members Present

*Ethan Beattie
*Rob Crook
*Ranee Haven-O'Donnell – Board of Aldermen
*Charlie Hileman (Chair)
*Robert Kirschner
*Lydia Lavelle—Board of Aldermen
*Johnny Randall (Vice-chair)
*Mary Parker Sonis

Absent

* indicates voting member

Staff Present

Trish McGuire-Carrboro Planning
Tina Moon-Carrboro Planning
Kurt Stolka-UNC Transportation Planning

- I. **Call to Order:** Charlie Hileman called the meeting to order at 6:38 p.m.
 - a. **Adjustments to the Agenda:** Hileman requested time at the end of the active projects item to discuss the use the railroad corridor and trestle bridge as an alternative segment for the Bolin Creek Greenway north-south greenway connection. Hileman had a video. Hileman also mentioned that there had been discussion at a previous meeting of talking about trail surfaces. Kirschner mentioned his recollection to talk about resources
 - b. **Minutes:** Kirschner motioned to approve the October 10th minutes. Lavelle noted a minor correction; McGuire identified a minor revision as well. Moon reread the corrected sections. Kirschner acknowledged the corrections in his motion and Hileman seconded the motion. The Greenways Commission unanimously approved the October 10th, 2016 meeting minutes.

- II. **Active Projects:**
 - a) Homestead-CHHS Multiuse Path construction progress: Tina Moon and Trish McGuire provided a short updated version of the October PowerPoint showing the construction progress of the multi-use path. The most notable change in the project from the previous meeting is the proposal to shift the path slightly near the OWASA manhole near the Homestead Road bridge, keeping the manhole cone intact—a change which should provide a slight savings toward the cost of the project. Hileman asked how users coming from Homestead Road by car would access the multi-use path. McGuire noted the connections from Claremont and Winmore. Members discussed interest in having a trailhead (or two) to provide drivers with a place to park and access the multi-use path. The potential to park at the high school was introduced and discussed.

Haven-O'Donnell asked staff to prepare a follow-up list and report on the list each meeting. The first item for the follow up list is to research the status of the Chapel Hill School renovation process, in part relating to the interface between the fields and the multi-use path and potentially to request an area be identified for a trailhead with parking—depending on the timing. The conversation branched out to explore the complexity of the public entities (the town, the school (county) and UNC) which own property around the schools and the multi-use path and the layers of easements which control use.

Randall asked if the Powerpoint could be put on the Town's website. Haven-O'Donnell asked if the overall rendering can be updated to reflect the rerouted cross country trail. Staff to update the Powerpoint and place on the Town's website.

- b) Hilemen discussed his concept of using the rail corridor along Norfolk Southern as an alternative alignment to get to Sewell School Road, using an off-road route. Staff to pursue if this is an option. Haven-O'Donnell asked if staff would explore whether the railroad corridor could be used for a trail (even when the railroad was not abandoned). Randall noted concerns with herbicides for weed control within the corridor.

- III. **Announcements/Adjourn:** The next meeting date is 12/12/2016. The group requested to meet at the HCHHS-MUP so that members could walk the path together. Staff to look for a meeting room at Chapel Hill High School or Fire Station #2 and to remind everyone of the particulars with the outgoing agenda packet.
- IV. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:02 pm.

**Carrboro Greenways Commission
Minutes
December 12, 2016**

Members Present

*Rob Crook
*Randee Haven-O'Donnell – Board of Aldermen
*Charlie Hileman (Chair)
*Lydia Lavelle—Board of Aldermen
*Johnny Randall (Vice-chair)
*Mary Parker Sonis

Absent

*Ethan Beattie
*Robert Kirschner

* indicates voting member

Staff Present

Trish McGuire-Carrboro Planning
Tina Moon-Carrboro Planning
Kurt Stolka-UNC Transportation Planning

- I. **Site Visit to Homestead-Chapel Hill High School MU Path**
- II. **Call to Order:** Charlie Hileman called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m.
 - a. Adjustments to the Agenda: Hileman reviewed the order of the agenda.
 - b. Minutes: Noting that Johnny Randall left after the site visit, Hileman suggested that the commission approve the November minutes at the following meeting, in January. Crook asked if there was a quorum, and Lavelle and Haven-O'Donnell noted that the Board liaisons count toward the quorum for the Greenways Commission.
- III. **Active Projects:**
 - a) Discussion of the Homestead-CHHS Multiuse Path walk and progress: Lavelle asked about the timeline for the next step in the construction process, since it appeared that work had stopped at least for the winter. Tina Moon and Trish McGuire provided a brief walk-through of the updated PowerPoint to help guide the discussion of the walk. Moon explained the delay on the north side of the path relating to the retaining wall, which is subject to NCDOT approval. The compressed gravel will be installed once the retaining wall is approved and built. Moon noted that the final design work for the pedestrian bridge is underway. The amount of clearance under the pedestrian bridge is approximately 9 feet.

Questions came up about the gate to the OWASA easement, which was locked in the past and is intended to be locked again once work is finished. Hileman asked about the timing of the paving and if some work could be finished before the whole project was completed to allow full use of the cross country trail, for example, or other areas. Moon

reported staff's efforts to work with the contractor for that purpose—particularly to finish the segment by Claremont to complete the walking path that is part of that subdivision.

b) Other Updates:

Members discussed their interest in greenway surfaces referring to examples from other areas. Hileman brought up the idea of looking for alternative routes for other sections of the Bolin Creek Greenway that might allow the Town more flexibility in surfaces, perhaps by using different funding sources. If the Town worked outside of NCDOT funding, there would be more flexibility with surfaces—Crook likewise suggested learning from other jurisdictions to consider other types of paths and to create a more regional networks of trail systems, working to get bike paths to connect to the American Tobacco Trail and Durham etc., developing a strategic goals. Lavelle shared her experience working with the City of Durham and suggested dedicating a portion of a meeting to look at a larger network. Hileman also suggested looking at connections to Twin Creeks Park and the Town-owned property on Old NC 86.

Little River Regional Park and Natural Area was introduced as an example of predominately unpaved trails as well Briar Chapel, a large private development in Chatham County. Hileman also spoke to the idea of building trails within the right of way for railroads as part of the rails to trails program, Haven-O'Donnell shared her past discussions on the topic. Crook offered to contact the Rails and Trails program to see if installing a trail within a rail corridor would be possible. Crook also noted the use of boardwalks to cover natural areas to help make the Carrboro trail system more regional. Crook also encouraged efforts to plan and potentially secure routes before the area becomes developed. Hileman offered to get in touch with Stuart Bryan to learn about trail surfaces and how those trails are used.

- IV. **Announcements/Adjourn:** The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 pm. The next meeting date is 1/9/2017. The group discussed possibly meeting on a weekend in order to look at examples of trail surfaces in the field.