WAKE FOREST GREENWAY ADVISORY BOARD

MINUTES

June 9, 2009

Members Present: Joe Seigler (Chairman), Greg Hoit (Vice Chairman), Timothy Nau, Lauri Arntsen, Jeff Poupart, Emalie Levine, Jeremy Wrenn, and Pete Thibodeau (ex-officio)

Members Absent: Bob Johnson and Jan Ammons

Staff Present: Candace Davis, Ann Ayers, and Susan Simpson

Visitors: none

CALL TO ORDER

Joe Seigler called the regular meeting of the Wake Forest Greenways Advisory Board (GAB) to order at 7:31 a.m. – The Forks Cafeteria 339 S. Brooks Street, Wake Forest, NC 27587.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: Greg Hoit made a motion to approve the minutes from the May 12th Regular Business Meeting. The motion was seconded by Tim Nau and carried unanimously (7-0).

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Staff received information about the Traditions Subdivision project after the agendas were sent out and wanted to provide an update on the consent agenda. Pete Thibodeau asked staff and other GAB members that attended the Southeast High Speed Rail (SEHSR), Trail Project Public Workshop to provide an update.

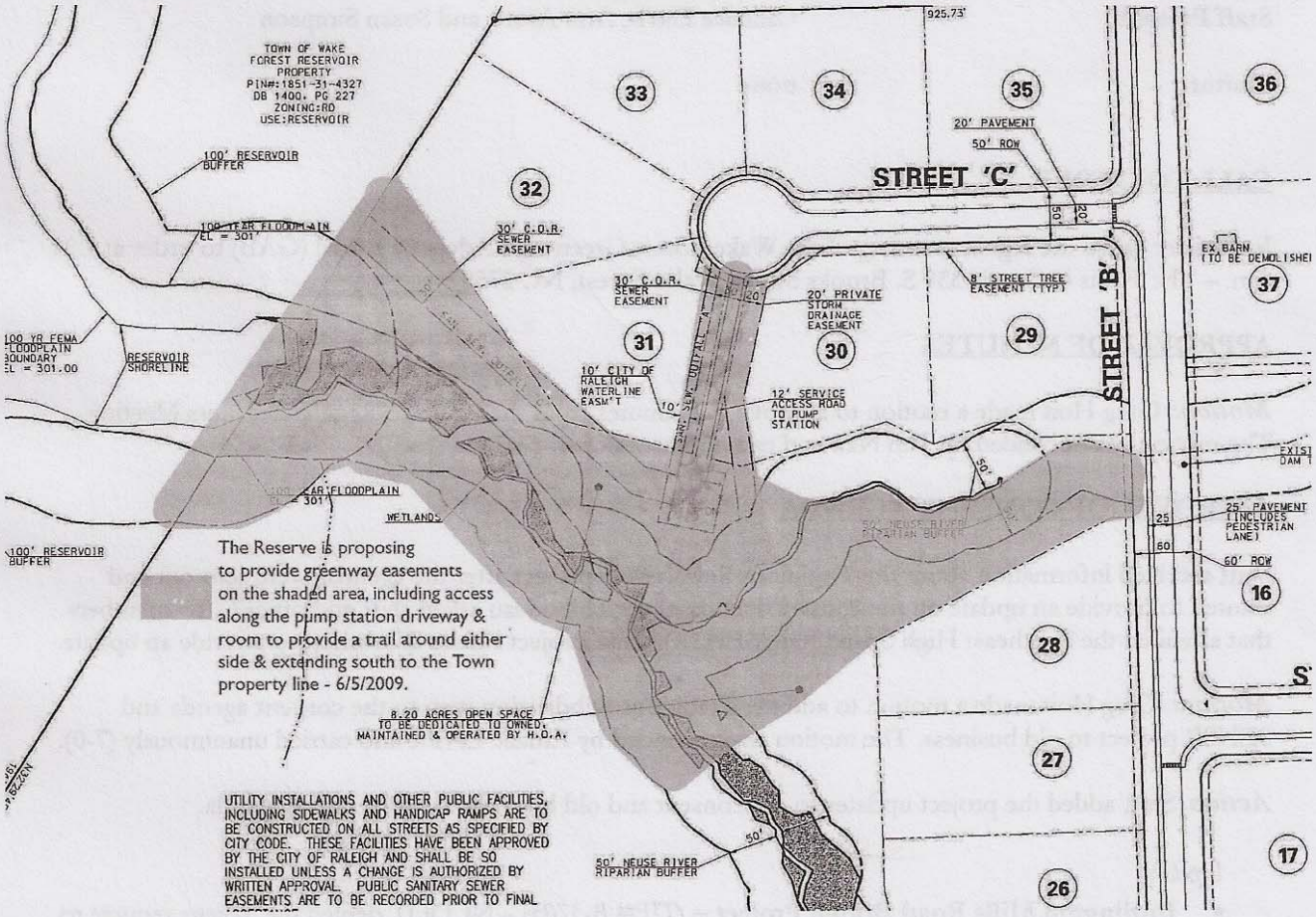
Motion: Greg Hoit made a motion to add the Traditions Subdivision item to the consent agenda and SEHSR project to old business. The motion was seconded by Emalie Levine and carried unanimously (7-0).

Action: Staff added the project updates to the consent and old business sections of the agenda.

Updates

- **Burlington Mills Road Bridge Project –** *(TIP# B-3705)* – NCDOT denied the Towns request to leave a 10' wide ribbon of asphalt along Burlington Mills Rd to accommodate the proposed trail connection from the Smith Creek Greenway trail to Bratt Avenue, due to a permit modification that would extend the project six months. Construction is scheduled to be completed by mid-July.
- **Open Space & Greenway Plan (OSGP) Update –** the GAB letter of recommendation for the OSGP Update has been forwarded to the Town Clerk. The letter was provided to the Planning Board and Board of Commissioners. The Planning Board unanimously recommended approval of the 2009 Plan Update at their June 2nd meeting. The Board of Commissioners will consider the recommendation at their June 16th meeting.
- **Dunn Creek Greenway Project -** The Town received an approval letter from DWQ for construction of Dunn Creek. We have also received our contract for the $350,000 in stimulus funds from NCDOT. It is in review by our attorneys and will be on the Town Board agenda for approval on June 16. Once approved, staff will get together with KCI to review the documents to be sent to NCDOT and the extra steps needed to ensure that the Town receives the money.

- **Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) Update**
  The current CIP covers five (5) fiscal years 2009-2010 through 2013-2014.
  - ✓ $75,000 has been budgeted for Greenways in Professional Services for the design of the Neuse River bridge and connecting trail.
- **Traditions Subdivision-** Ammons Development Group does not plan to construct the trails within this subdivision due to the balance of Recreation Facility Fees consumed by the fee simple land dedication.
- **The Reserve-** the developer is proposing greenway easements on the shaded area, including access along the pump station driveway & room to provide a trail around either side & extending south to the Town property line. *Please refer to the exhibit below.*



Announcements

- **Technical Review Committee (TRC)** – Thursday, June 18, at 10am, Town Hall Board Room
- **New Town Clerk –** Mrs. Deeda Harris began working on Tuesday, May 26th.
- **Canoeing for Water Quality** -the Town is hosting a FREE canoeing/kayaking for water quality event at the Wake Forest reservoir located off of Wait Avenue near NC98 Bypass from 9 am until 12 pm on June 13th and July 11th. There are 20 slots for each paddling session and if you wish you can bring your own boat (canoe or kayak) and join us. It is first come first serve so call or email today. Waiver forms will need to be signed for all parties involved and will be emailed out prior to the events. Please contact Holly Spring at 919.554.3158 or hspring@wakeforestnc.gov to sign up.

OLD BUSINESS

a. CIP and Budget

Susan Simpson, Director, Parks & Recreation Department provided a brief overview of the Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) process and greenway monies allocated for FY 2009-2010. The CIP is a five year plan identifying the Town's capital outlay and improvement needs. The CIP is updated annually and the process begins in November of each year. $75,000 has been budgeted for Greenways in Professional Services for the design of the Neuse River bridge and connecting trail.

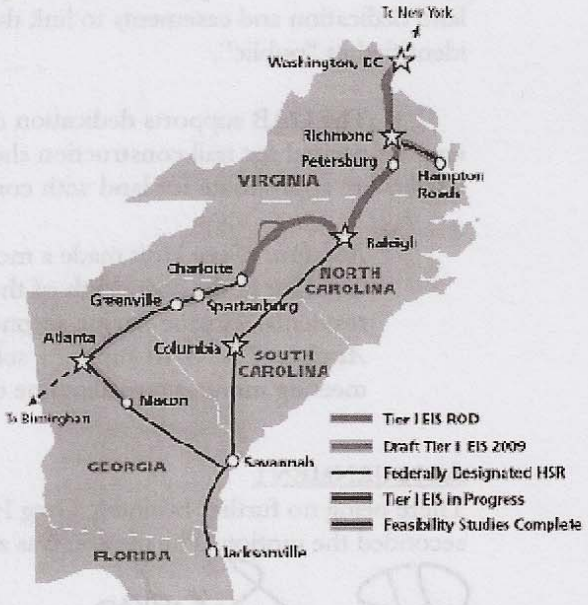
b. Reservoir Trail Project

The new easements to be acquired with the Reserves Subdivision eliminate the need for a 120' long bridge across the water.

Ammons Development Group has agreed to put a 10'wide multi-use path on the south side of Oak Grove Church Road with the development of that portion of Traditions. This would provide and east-west link from Richland Creek to the Reservoir along North Loop and Oak Grove Church Road.

Greg Hoit presented information regarding a plan to phase installation of soft trails on the Reservoir and believes there is sufficient room in accessible sections to install soft trails on the east side of the Reservoir. Staff indicated that there are no funds to accomplish surveys or the purchase of tools for soft trail construction by volunteers, additional easements are needed near the spillway, and issues of liability will need to be addressed first. Based on current direction, staff's work plan does not include additional work on the Reservoir trails at this time.

c. Southeast High Speed Rail, Trail (SEHSR) - Project Public Workshop Recap



The Southeast High Speed Rail, Trail Project public workshop was held on Thursday, June 4th at 7pm at the Northern Regional Center. Seven counties in Virginia and North Carolina hosted local workshops to gather input into the parallel Trail Concept. Several Greenway Advisory Board members, town officials, staff, and residents attended the open house to view maps, ask questions and offer feedback.

Four trains a day are planned to provide service between Raleigh, NC and Petersburg, VA, without stopping in Wake Forest. The trains could travel as fast as 110 mph but the average speed will be 87 to 89 mph.

The trail concept would be a separate project, parallel to and outside the rail right of way, but within the Southeast High Speed Rail study corridor. The workshop consisted of brief introductory comments followed by an opportunity for attendees to provide input on the preferred location of the trail/greenway with respect to the rail corridor (ie., east or west side).

No at grade crossings will be allowed. The SEHSR is proposing closures at Elm Avenue.

Staff submitted the following comments:

- ✓ Hardcopies and current GIS shape files from the Wake Forest Bicycle, Pedestrian, and Greenway map.
- ✓ Use the Smith Creek Corridor as the preferred route through Wake Forest, east side of the rail.

✓ Provide pedestrian accommodations at the NC 98 Bypass, Rogers Road, and Northside Loop.

Motion: none
Action:

- The GAB agreed to email SEHSR trail project team in support of the project.
- Staff will email the SEHSR trail project web address to the GAB.

NEW BUSINESS

a. Take – A- Hike

The GAB members suggested the following:

- Burlington Mills Road – hold off until the bridge construction is complete
- Old 98 Bypass to Juniper
- Wait Avenue to Juniper/Oak Grove Church Road (Dunn Creek)
- Reservoir - post phone the walk until fall
- Reservoir - canoe

Motion: none
Action: none

b. Traditions Subdivision

Ammons Development Group does not plan to construct trails within Traditions Subdivision based on the value of the land to be dedicated to the Town in fee simple. The land dedication extends from the south to Flaherty Park. The land from Flaherty Park north to Franklin County is shown as "Private Open Space" on the master plan. Staff has requested greenway easements on the Smith Creek Corridor north of the land dedication and easements to link the neighborhood to the trails. Staff has also requested that the trails be identified as "public".

The GAB supports dedication of land along the Greenway Corridors. However, land exceeding the amount needed for trail construction should not automatically be eligible for Recreation Facility Fees, but Tax Credits are appropriate for land with conservation value.

Motion: Greg Hoit made a motion to request greenway easements in Traditions on the Smith Creek Corridor in the area north of the land dedication up to Flaherty Park and to provide access to the residents. Emalie Levine seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously (7-0).
Action: The GAB supports staff's efforts to review Board of Commissioner meeting tapes and meeting minutes regarding the decision for trails within Traditions.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Greg Hoit made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:53 a.m. Jeremy Wrenn seconded the motion. The motion was approved 7-0.

JD Seigler

Joe Seigler, Chairman

Candace R. Davis

Candace R. Davis, Secretary