



## DURHAM OPEN SPACE AND TRAILS COMMISSION

### Minutes

April 19, 2023, 7:00 p.m.

VIRTUAL MEETING VIA ZOOM:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87515862913?pwd=U3JVS3lVS3hJYUt5V1dxOWI1YnpOZz09>

- I. Call to Order 7:03 p.m. (Deborah Luecken, Jeffrey Bakalchuck, Steve Cohn, Maureen Quinlan, Taylor Shaw, Peter Whitehead, Shakira Campbell, Harrison Gilbert, Celeste Burns, Audrey Vogul, Tom Dawson, Karthik Sundarmoot, Fred Myatt, Jane Korest, Tonia McRae, Dave Connelly, Carl Kolosna)
- II. Approval of Minutes
  - a. Approval of March Minutes (BPAC instead of DPAC correction) Dave: Motion to approve the minutes. Moved by Deborah, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Peter.
- III. Excused Absences Melissa Southern, Brian
- IV. Adjustments to the Agenda (None)
- V. Presentations:
  - a. Open Space Updates - Audrey Vogel, DPR Open Space Planner
    - i. Brief overview of the Downtown and Urban Open Space Plans. Evaluate recent DPR investments in open space. Outline next steps for DPR open space strategy.
    - ii. What is open Space?
      - Varies by type and function. Site specific recommendations.
        - Downtown Open Space Plan-Private, Semi-private and public spaces that provide opportunities for outdoor social, civic, and recreational activities.
        - Urban Open Space land that provides overlapping ecosystem services that are vital to community health and well-being.
      - Both plans provide site specific recommendations for new and existing open spaces.
      - DPR has three trails that have been awarded City and Federal Funding Third Fork Creek, R. Kelly Bryant Bridge, and Downtown Trail
      - Takeaways: DPR continually working to achieve the intent of the adopted open space plans
      - Plans are instrumental for DPR to justify purchases of properties that become available for open space.
      - DPR to prioritize achieving an equitable distribution of open space in the Urban Tier (less focused on Downtown)
    - **Maureen asked-** with a fresh set of eyes, was there anything that stuck out as surprising coming from Mebane? Answer: it was interesting to review both plans because they were written differently. Downtown is complicated because of parking and is a hot commodity. While the urban plan is a lot broader. Public engagement is a part of the plan,

but what the findings of the public engagement were and how that informed the recommendations. The land suitability were some great attributes that were used but was wondering what the justification was for them. Example: flood plains.

- Karthnik invited Audrey to attend all of the DOST meetings. Tom Dawson stated that the team was going to switch personnel attending the meetings. Generally, the liaisons would like to have representation at the meetings.

**b. Unique Places to Save, 8005 Massey Chapel Rd – Clark Harris, Executive Director**

- 23-acre parcel of land between Massey Chapel Road and Renaissance Parkway (American Tobacco Trail)
- Under threat of development inspired a neighbor to become anchor donor.
- Proposed name Carlton Family Nature Park at Massey Chapel
- Requesting Formal Letter of Support from DOST for grant application NC Land and Water Fund. (Maureen asked if the letter is something that we should put on the agenda for the next meeting).

**c. DOST Bylaw Revisions – Carl Kolosna, Senior Planner**

- DOST Commission is a joint commission between the city of Durham and the county. The interlocal agreement created DOST and is also the By Laws for DOST. Hasn't been updated since 2013. Will bring forth recommended changes in May.
- Some of the changes are: use inclusive language regarding citizenship, change to resident. Remove full voting members from the City Council. Make them ex-officio Durham Planning Commission are full voting members, remove the requirements that they have to be present. DOST has the ability to self-appoint its members. Request that it is removed. Due to integrity concerns.
- Be consistent with BPAC regarding participation with other committees.

**VI. Old Business**

- Punch list (Melissa) requests feedback on the comprehensive plan. Carl will email it to everyone. 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of May the list will be reviewed to make recommendations from DOST as a whole.
- May 10-DOST 2023 Trails Tour (East End Park, North Gate Dog Park, Rock Quarry Creek and Ellerbee Creek Trail, South Ellerbee Stream Restoration, Future Durham Rail Trail.

**VII. New Business (N/A)**

**VIII. Updates**

- a. Updates from staff (New Hope Creek Advisory Committee is having a meeting Apr 26<sup>th</sup> 4 p.m.)
- b. Updates from liaisons Jeffrey-(BPAC) speed limit on trails, signage, June 10<sup>th</sup> trails day. Events on the ATT, bicycle safety, animal safety, [www.greattrailsnc.com](http://www.greattrailsnc.com) City of Cary and Wake County. Some will be at the beginning of the trail downtown, and two-mile mark.

- c. Updates from committees
  - i. Equity Committee and Matching Grants Committee
- d. Announcements

**Adjournment Motion to**

**adjourn, moved by Fred Myatt,**

**2<sup>nd</sup> by Jeffrey Bakalchuck**