

Albemarle County Natural Heritage Committee Meeting, 2014.07.07

Present: Lonnie Murray, Rochelle Garwood; Peggy Cornett, Tom Olivier, Tom Torrance.
Planning Commission Liaison: Karen Firehock. Albemarle County: Scott Clark. Public: Ruth Douglas, Adele Wood.

Recent Site Visits.

- **Red Hill wetlands site.** Included Ann Mallek & Liz Palmer. Owner is interested in an easement. Would like a draft model easement that he can “just sign” (but we know it isn’t quite that easy).
- **~~Paper Birch Site.~~ Key West Site / Neighborhood association.** Ken Boyd was interested if they would lose any rights by being on our list of special places and the answer is no (waivers could be requested). Also he emphasized that our site list is primarily to prioritize limited conservation resources and part of a process of engaging landowners. Lonnie responded with a yes when they asked if the site would be damaged by a critical slope waiver.
- **County owned land in Mill Creek/Galaxy Farm Rd.** area. Jane Dittmar attended (Adele initiated). the site where they were considering putting in a convenience center. Encouraging residents to attend planning session on July 24th for the Southern Development Planning process. Connects to the NHC goal of strongly encouraging green space in urban areas. Adele will work with Devin, and contact Elaine Echols. The site is a connector to Biscuit Run.

Rural Areas Comprehensive Plan Review.

The group reviewed the Rural Area Comp Plan and combined comments that will be sent to the BOS & Elaine Echols.

Landscape Ecology Review (Scott Clark).

The point is to set the stage for our landscape analysis work.

Having small tracts of lands encourages invasive species and is harmful to the more sensitive species.

Scott will have monthly reports after the work gets started soon; will be done in conjunction with the Green Infrastructure Center and interns.

Need this to create an effective Action Plan, which can direct funding and policy toward prioritization of land conservation.

October meeting presentation to BOS: Scott will put in the request.

Next Meeting: Monday, August 4th.