

**ATTACHMENT 8**

Information provided by Peter White, NC Botanical Garden  
November 17, 2004

Summary of meetings between North Carolina Botanical Garden and Kings Mill/Morgan Creek neighbors:

2001

In September, the Garden opens a dialogue with the Kings Mill/Morgan Creek Neighborhood by inviting neighbors to an open house to share information about the Botanical Garden's developing master plan (including new Visitor Education Center and importance of closing Laurel Hill Road). As a result of this effort, neighbors asked that we present the same information at the neighborhood Annual Meeting. Later that fall, we made this presentation and answered questions. As a result of these two meetings, the Neighborhood offered to form a committee to represent the neighbors in discussions with Garden staff on the Garden's Master Plan and the proposed closing of Laurel Hill Road.

2002

In April, a Committee representing Neighborhood Homeowners Association Board and other interested Kings Mill/Morgan Creek residents was formed to meet with Botanical Garden representatives to discuss issues and possible solutions related to the closure of Laurel Hill Road to through traffic. We began our discussions in July. We attended the Annual Meeting of the Kings Mill/Morgan Creek Neighborhood Homeowners Association to present an update of Botanical Garden's master plan. Committee members and Garden representatives reported on progress of discussions related to closing Laurel Hill Road.

2003

The Committee and Garden continued the discussions. Garden representatives developed more detailed plans in response to neighbor comments and presented these to the Committee. The Garden led a walk for the Committee to see possible routes for the proposed bike and pedestrian corridor and the Visitor Education building site.

2004

The Garden representatives and the Committee felt they had discussed and resolved the issues important to and raised by the neighborhood. We held a Committee meeting in mid-January and then presented the progress and answered questions at the Annual Meeting of the Neighborhood Homeowners Association. Later that spring, we also presented our Master Plan and proposal for Laurel Hill Road to the Highland Woods Neighborhood Association.

In June, the Garden initiated the Town's Special Use Permit process, to begin review of the Visitor Education Center plan, including the proposal to close Laurel Hill Road. We asked that all of the residents in the neighborhoods near the Garden be included in the

public notice mailing—approximately twice the number of residents compared to those within the required 1000 foot radius of the Garden. We presented our Concept Plan to the Community Design Commission and Town Council later that month. In June, the neighborhood association also distributed the Committee's report in support of the closing of Laurel Hill Road with three stipulations to all residents. In September, Garden representatives met with individuals and small groups to present the plans in more detail. We invited all neighbors closest to Laurel Hill Road, Coker Drive, Kings Mill and Woodbine to these meetings. In October, we held two open houses at the Garden and invited all neighbors to attend these.