

## **MEMORANDUM**

TO: Roger L. Stancil, Town Manager

FROM: Ray (Butch) Kisiah, Parks and Recreation Director  
Bill Webster, Assistant Parks and Recreation Director

SUBJECT: Donation of Conservation Easement along Cole Spring Branch

DATE: January 25, 2010

### **PURPOSE**

Adoption of the attached resolution would accept a donation of a conservation easement over land adjacent to Cole Spring Branch, which is a tributary of Bolin Creek.

### **BACKGROUND**

The property is an 8.36 acre parcel of land that lies north of Bolin Creek, east of the Mt. Bolus neighborhood, and west of the Hidden Hills neighborhood. The property fronts onto Cedar Street and Burlage Circle. It is contiguous with Town-owned open space lands along Bolin Creek. The property can be located in Orange County Land Records as Tax Map #7.35.C.1B.

### **DISCUSSION**

The conservation easement effectively prevents any development of the land except for a low impact trail and passive recreation.

The property contains most of a small wooded cove or valley just north of Bolin Creek, across from Village Green condominiums. A small tributary of Bolin Creek named Cole Springs Branch flows through the valley. The property, which is completely forested, contains some steep slopes adjacent to Cedar Street and Burlage Circle. The Greenways Master Plan shows a future natural surface trail in this location. A rough informal trail already exists near Cole Spring Branch. Despite being in the heart of Chapel Hill the site seems remote and contains above-average aesthetic attributes.

The attached resolution would formally accept the conservation easement.

### **FISCAL NOTE**

There have been no significant costs associated with the acquisition of the conservation easement. We do not expect to incur any significant costs related to stewardship of the easement. There may be some costs associated with improvement of the existing informal trail at some time in the future.

**RECOMMENDATION**

That the Council adopt the attached resolution, which would accept a donation of a conservation easement.

**ATTACHMENTS**

1. Property Map (p. 4).