**FRIENDS OF BOLIN CREEK**

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**FRIENDS OF BOLIN CREEK SURVEYS CARRBORO CANDIDATES**

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. – Friends of Bolin Creek (FOBC) recently conducted a survey of Carrboro candidates seeking election this November, and the answers reveal differences in how the candidates would protect Bolin Creek.

Candidates for Aldermen Jacquelyn Gist, Randee Haven O’Donnell and Sammy Slade, all incumbents, favor keeping any paved bikeway away from the immediate vicinity of Bolin Creek.

Newcomer Kurt Štolka, seeking an alderman spot, does not seem to have a definite stance at this time, saying only, “Creating a welcoming, connected greenway network will aid us in the future whenever UNC decides to develop their forestlands and provide additional fitness opportunities for all ages.”

Carrboro mayoral candidate Lydia Lavelle, on the other hand, appears to still see merits in a paved greenway near Bolin Creek although she would consider other alternatives, stating: “I would like to see a greenway through Carolina North. I am not wedded to the greenway being along Bolin Creek (although for many reasons, that location makes the most sense). If an alternative were presented through Carolina North that had the support of both sides, I would consider it.”

FOBC Candidate Survey 2-2-2

Carrboro Alderman Jaquelyne Gist reiterated the need for greenways to serve all citizens, including, as she said, “those using wheelchairs or pushing strollers.” But she added, “I have long supported and advocated for keeping paved paths away from our sensitive creek areas and will continue to do so. Path locations and materials should be varied to address the specific ecology of each section of a pathway. This will result not only in better preservation of our creeks but also a more interesting walk or ride!

Incumbent Randee Haven O’Donnell pointed out how Carrboro can look to UNC’s Campus-to-Campus Route to connect Carolina North with downtown Carrboro. “This is an excellent way to maximize our limited funds,” she stated, “and provide a paved bike path that is also away from conserved wetlands and sensitive creek areas. Developing a connected network of safe bike routes is a community goal.” She cautioned, however, “Too many seek to systematically dismantle years of environmental advances. It is important we remain united as a community to holistically find environmentally sustainable solutions.”

Incumbent Sammy Slade noted the Orange Water and Sewer Authority (OWASA) has a long-term plan to move the sewer lines along Bolin Creek away from the waterway. “If the creek corridor is ultimately chosen,” he said, “I believe that we should coordinate with OWASA to have the bike path along the new sewer-line corridor, up and away from the creek and its flood zone. Also I believe that we need to continue requesting to DOT that they not use road standards for bike and walk paths because they are too wide.”

FOBC Candidate Survey 3-3-3

Newcomer Kurt Štolka seemed especially concerned about bike amenities. As he stated, “I believe we should make our public spaces equally accessible for everyone and sensitively create routes for people to access these areas. This not only creates a healthier community, but also provides more connectivity for those that choose to travel by bicycle which takes fossil fuel-powered motor vehicles off our streets.”

The only other newcomer seeking an alderman spot, Al Vickers, did not respond to the FOBC survey.

All candidates said they favored conserving the 325-acres of forest that surrounds Bolin Creek. They also indicated they recognized the need for more attention to storm-water problems particularly in light of the early summer flooding that hit the town and the effects of climate change.

Friends of Bolin Creek asked a total of ten questions of Carrboro candidates that the organization believes get at the heart of the environmental challenges facing Carrboro and the future of Bolin Creek. The candidates were specifically asked about a paved greenway along Bolin Creek, the recent town flooding, storm-water efforts, the inclusion of northern neighborhoods with the downtown, and the need for safe biking. The candidates were also asked their top three priorities if elected and to describe their leadership style.

For all of the candidates’ answers, please go to the Friends of Bolin Creek website: [www.bolincreek.org](http://www.bolincreek.org).