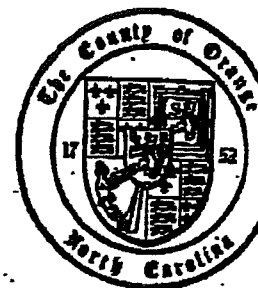


MOSES CAREY, JR., CHAIR
 STEPHEN H. HALKOTTIS, VICE CHAIR
 MARGARET W. BROWN
 ALICE M. GORDON
 BARRY JACOBS

ORANGE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
 P.O. BOX 8181
 200 S. CAMERON STREET
 HILLSBOROUGH, N.C. 27278



March 24, 2000

The Honorable Rosemary Waldorf, Mayor
 Town of Chapel Hill
 306 N. Columbia Street
 Chapel Hill, NC 27514

Dear Rosemary:

At our meeting on March 21, 2000, the Orange County Board of Commissioners completed discussions on the recent biological and cultural surveys of the Greene tract, and reached a conclusion on the 60 acres of the tract to be transferred to the County under the proposed interlocal solid waste agreement. Previously, at our meeting on March 14, 2000, the Board of Commissioners approved an amendment to that agreement that removed rezoning of a 60-acre portion of the Greene Tract as a condition for transfer of solid waste management responsibility to the County. In addition, at the regular meeting on March 21, 2000, the Board unanimously approved a resolution "to withdraw Orange County's support for the rezoning request" for the Greene tract. The minutes of the meeting will reflect this action, and County Attorney Geoffrey Gledhill has determined that this action is sufficient to document the County's position on this matter.

With our actions on these issues, we have tried to maintain the momentum that we have all worked so hard to achieve during the past year towards completing the reorganization of the solid waste management structure in Orange County. Our target now for the handover of solid waste responsibility is Monday, April 17. In order to meet that timeline under the provisions of the amendment to the interlocal agreement we have approved, there would also need to be agreement from the governing boards of Carrboro and Chapel Hill by March 31 to the delineation of 60 acres of the Greene Tract and to the interlocal agreement amendment. As we understand it, these are the only remaining policy decisions needed to complete the transfer from the Town of Chapel Hill to Orange County. The reason for the lag between final decisions by the three governing boards and the effective date of the transfer is that County staff will need at least one full two-week pay period to arrange pay and benefits enrollment, and to carry out related administrative actions necessary to transfer the Solid Waste Department staff from Chapel Hill to Orange County employment. If either or both the municipal governing boards are unable to reach agreement with the County on the 60-acre designation and the amendment to the interlocal agreement by March 31, then we will revise the target date for handover to the start of the subsequent County pay period, which is May 1.

With regard to the 60-acre Greene Tract designation, Map 1 (attached) shows the area that Orange County would like to have transferred to County ownership. This area was selected after considerable discussion and review of site characteristics, and offers an opportunity to preserve

important hardwood forest areas on the tract while also providing for possible rail line access to the southeast. It is the intent of the current Board of Commissioners that this sixty acres remain undisturbed.

We have also attached two additional maps showing the general location of the most significant biological areas from the Biological Resources Survey (Map 2) and a map illustrating the potential for wildlife corridors on the property (Map 3).

In taking this action, the Board agreed by unanimous motion on two components of its vision for the entire Greene tract:

- When we decide the uses of the Greene tract, we should consider its strategic location in many contexts – especially in terms of open space to the north (Duke Forest) and greenways and parks to the south (Booker Creek Greenway/Homestead Park and Bolin Creek Greenway) – and try to integrate the tract with the surrounding wildlife corridors, parks, and other open space.
- Based on the Triangle Land Conservancy inventory and the Wildlife Corridor Study, and in concurrence with the Town of Chapel Hill's resolution on parkland preservation for the Greene tract, the total tract should be preserved as open space and protected to the greatest extent possible. That includes preservation of the important natural areas, especially significant hardwood forest areas. These areas contain the most suitable areas for potential habitat, and include both upland and bottomland hardwood forests. Furthermore, the Greene tract is the headwaters of the Bolin Creek, Booker Creek, and New Hope Creek (Old Field Creek) basins.

Please feel free to contact me or County staff if you have any questions. We look forward to completing the actions needed for the County to assume solid waste management responsibility, and to collaborating with you soon in discussions about the future disposition of the remainder of the Greene tract.

Sincerely,



Moses Carey, Jr.
Chair, Orange County Commissioners

Attachments

Map 1 – "Proposed Orange County 60-Acre Transfer"

Map 2 – Primary Natural Areas

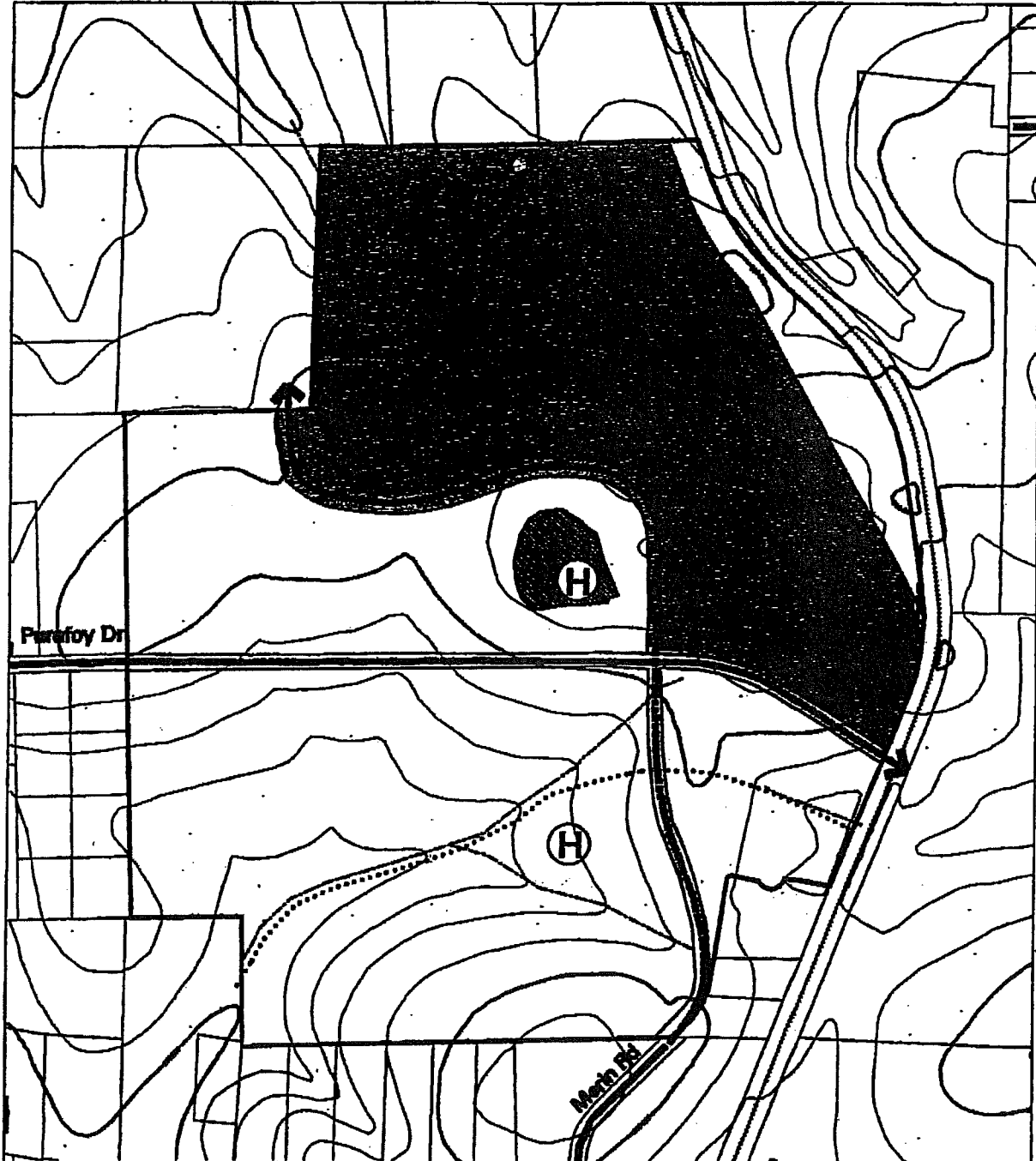
Map 3 – Potential Wildlife Corridor/Greenway Connections

Agreement to Amend the Agreement for Solid Waste Management






Greene Tract

Map 1

Proposed 60-Acre Area for Transfer to County



Legend:

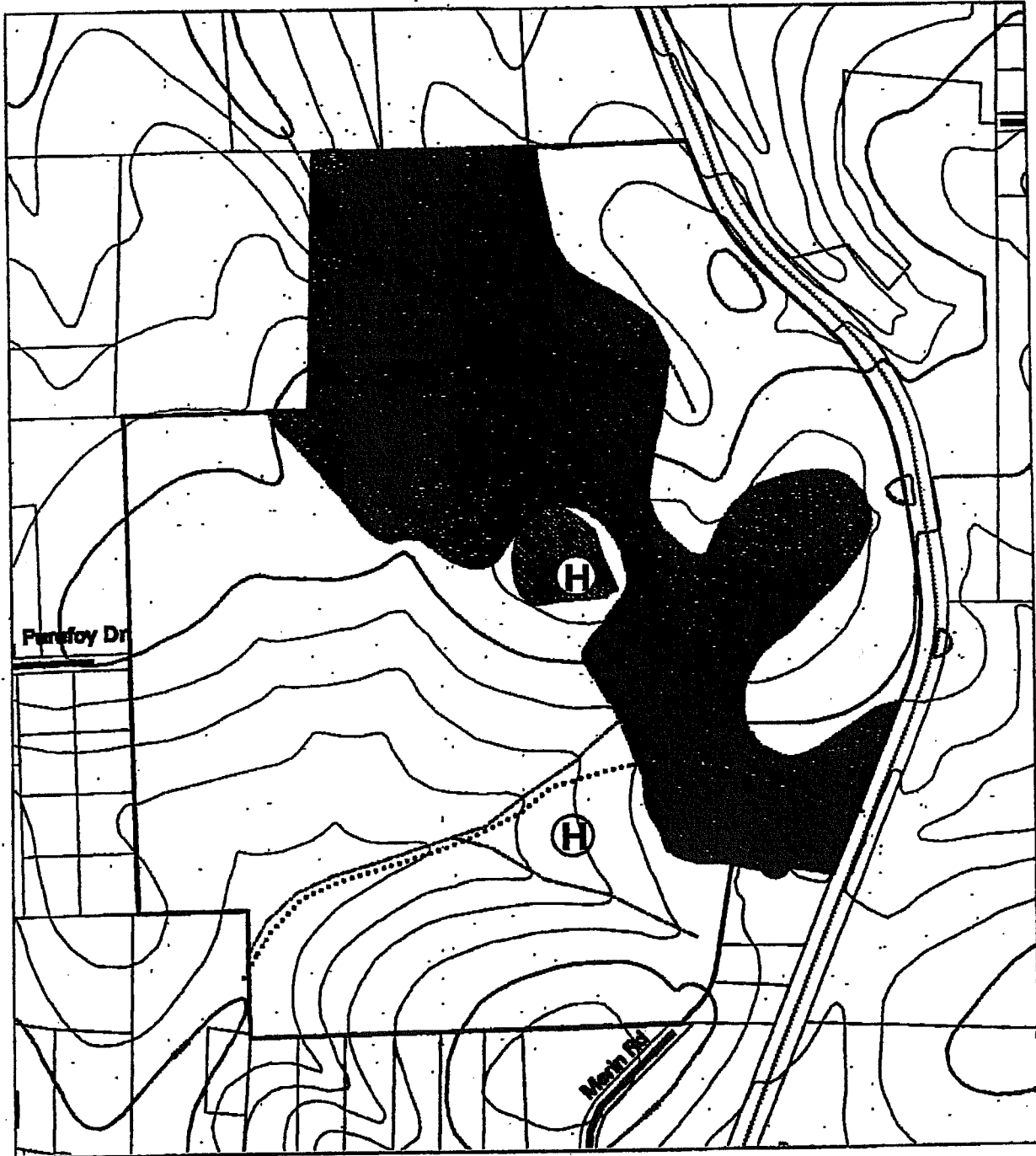
-  Proposed 60-acre County portion
-  Greene Tract (169 acres)
-  Proposed roads
-  Proposed Trail
-  Contour lines



Greene Tract

Map 2

Primary Natural Areas (hardwoods)



Legend:

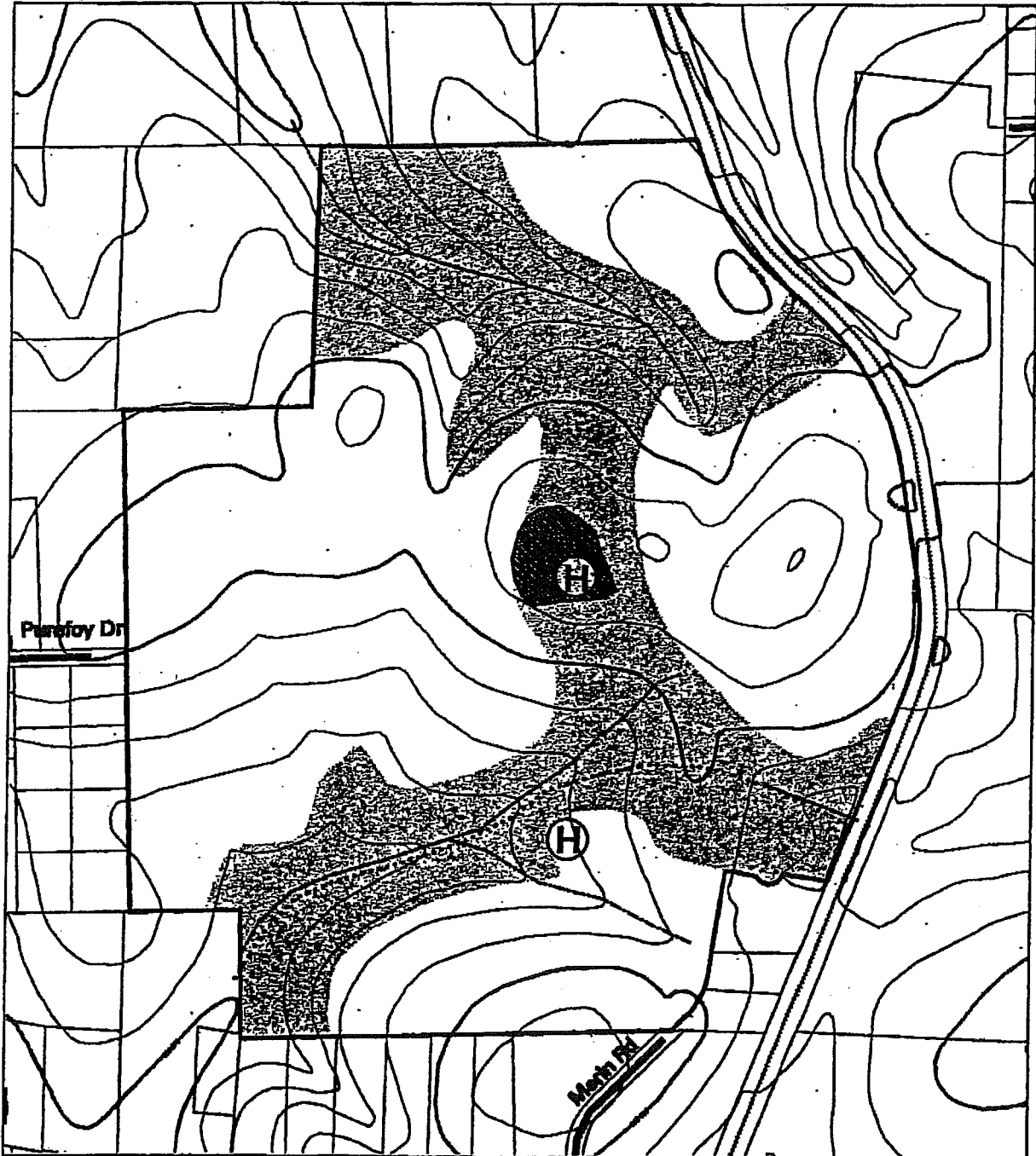
- Primary Natural Areas (hardwoods)
- ▭ Greene Tract (169 acres)
- ⋯ Proposed Trail
- ~ Contour lines
- Streams








Greene Tract

Potential Wildlife Corridors

Map 3



Legend:

-  Potential Wildlife Corridors
-  Greene Tract (169 acres)
-  Proposed Trail
-  Contour lines
-  Streams

