



DELAWARE AND RARITAN
CANAL COMMISSION

30 November 1984

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 20 NOVEMBER 1984:

TIME: 12:30 pm - 2:00 pm
PLACE: Canal House, 25 Calhoun Street, Trenton
DATE: Tuesday, 20 November 1984

ATTENDING:

COMMISSIONERS: Messrs. Kirkland, Hamilton, Jones, Jessen, Holland and Torpey

STAFF: Mr. Baill
Mr. Cook, DAG

GUESTS: Messrs. Pitt and McKelvey, Canal Society of New Jersey
Mr. Norton & Mrs. Barrows, D & R Canal Coalition
Mr. Stern, D & R Canal Park
Mr. Decker, Somerset County Engineers Office
Mr. Perone, Somerset County Planning Department
Mr. Laaksonen, Mercer County Planning Department

Mr. Kirkland opened the meeting and stated that all applicable provisions of the Open Public Meeting Law of 1976 had been properly met.

MINUTES

Mr. Jones moved and Mr. Hamilton seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the meeting of 16 October 1984. The motion was carried unanimously.

LEASES AND PERMITS

Mr. Bail presented three leases:

- 1. P.S.E.&G.
- 2. Estate of Edna H. Kelly
- 3. GAF Corporation

CN 402 TRENTON, NEW JERSEY 08625 609-292-2101

EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR
James C. Amon

COMMISSIONERS
Benjamin B. Kirkland
Chairman

Martin D. Jessen
Vice-Chairman

Donald B. Jones
Treasurer

Robert E. Hughey
Bruce A. Hamilton

Stuart R. Zaikov
Arthur J. Holland

Winona D. Nash
Frank J. Torpey

NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
Thomas H. Kean, Governor Robert E. Hughey, Commissioner

Mr. Jones moved and Mr. Jessen seconded a motion to approve the leases with P.S.E. & G. and with the GAF Corporation. Mr. Kirkland directed that the lease with the estate of Edna H. Kelly be held and studied. The motion passed unanimously.

REVIEW ZONE PROJECTS

Mr. Baill presented the following Review Zone Project to the Commissioners for their approval:

84-0371

Kerzner, Inc.

Mr. Jessen moved and Mr. Jones seconded a motion to approve the above project. The motion passed unanimously.

CANAL PARK IMPROVEMENT PLANS

Mr. Kirkland told the Commissioners that there are two separate categories of discussion in this topic. First, there is approximately \$135,000 to be spent right away. Second there is about \$900,000 to be spent over the next ten years. This second category will be discussed at another time.

Mr. Kirkland read a list of four recommendations from Mr. Amon for the \$135,000.

1. Opening and bridging the turning basin at Alexander Road in Princeton Township.
2. Do whatever is necessary to fix the Zarephath Canal House so that a caretaker tenant can move in. (Mr. Stern reported that these repairs would include a new septic system, a new water line, a new bathroom, a new roof, repair of floor joists, interior renovation, new electrical system.)
3. Towpath in Lambertville. Bridge across Alexauken and railroad overpass.
4. Stabilize the Weston Canal House.

Mr. Kirkland said that he had discussed these projects with Mr. Myers who felt that these were reasonable projects. Mr. Jessen said that he felt the Zarephath house would cost the State two or three hundred thousand dollars. He recommended, therefore, that we put a new roof on the building and stabilize the exterior. Mr. Holland agreed with this idea. Mr. Stern said that the kitchen area must be given a new foundation to stabilize the building. Mr. Hamilton suggested that stabilization should be done now and then see about other steps.

Mr. Stern said that both the Zarephath and Weston houses could be given new wood shingle roofs for a total of \$8,000.

Mr. Jessen suggested that the Commission write to the State D.O.T. and ask if they have a bridge that could be used at the Princeton Turning Basin.

Mr. Jessen moved and Mr. Jones seconded a motion to have the Princeton Turning Basin work done. It carried unanimously.

Mr. Holland moved and Mr. Hamilton seconded a motion to stabilize the Zarephath canal house. It carried unanimously.

Mr. Jessen moved and Mr. Hamilton seconded a motion to bridge the Alexauken. It carried unanimously.

Mr. Jones moved and Mr. Holland seconded a motion to stabilize the Weston canal house. It carried unanimously.

Mr. Hamilton moved and Mr. Torpey seconded a motion to include a crushed stone parking lot at the Van Wyckle House in Franklin Township. It carried unanimously.

Mr. Jones said that he would like to pursue the idea of putting a crushed stone topping on the railroad right-of-way from Lambertville to Prallsville. Mr. Kirkland asked Mr. Jones to look further into this idea. Mr. Jones was given authority to talk to the Water Supply Authority to see if they would be able to do this job.

DISCUSSION OF TRAFFIC PATTERN IMPACTS ON THE CANAL PARK

Mr. Kirkland introduced Mr. Perone and Mr. Decker from Somerset County and Mr. Laaksonen from Mercer County. He said that the Commission is very concerned about the growth that is occurring in the Route One Corridor and in Franklin Township and other parts of Somerset County. He fears that the Commission's obligation to protect the Canal Park may eventually conflict with the need to build more roads.

Mr. Decker said that there are no plans at present to widen Canal Road except the portion between Weston and the I-287 crossing. He said that the project with the greatest potential impact will be the Somerset Expressway, which is to cross the canal.

Mr. Jessen said that he felt that the widening of Weston Canal Road might include a twenty foot medium strip. Mr. Decker said that there is room for a fifteen to twenty foot strip.

Mr. Hamilton said that the Franklin Township Master Plan calls for a new crossing at Jacques Road.

Mr. Decker said that there is practically no progress on Route 92.

Mr. Laaksonen reviewed the existing crossings:

1. The Harrison Street bridge over Lake Carnegie has structural problems. A new bridge is being considered and much thought is being given to its width. A new canal crossing seems likely in conjunction with this bridge.
2. The State D.O.T. is planning to rebuild ten of the Mercer County canal crossing bridges.
3. At Alexander Road there is a desire to straighten the road. This would mean a new location. This is under study.

4. At Port Mercer there is consideration being given to a new crossing a bit south of the present one. There is a great deal of development coming in this area and the developers have been told about the canal and told to plan for its enhancement and use.

Mr. Holland left the meeting at 1:45 pm.

Mr. Hamilton left the meeting at 2:00 pm (A quorum ceased).

Mr. Jessen suggested that the Commission invite the State D.O.T. to make a similar presentation. There was considerable concern about Mr. Laaksonen's information that ten bridges across the canal in Mercer County are slated for replacement.

CANAL PARK SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

See Attached Report.

PUBLIC FORUM

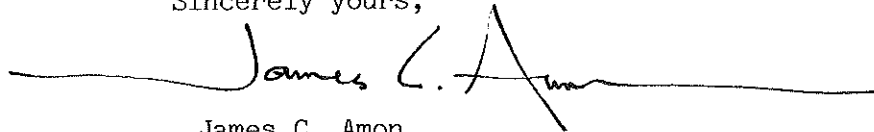
Mr. Jones reported that the railroad right-of-way between Bull's Island and Frenchtown has been resurfaced and is available for use.

Mr. Norton suggested that the Commission consider putting a bridge across the Millstone on the old piers on the east side of the aquaduct. He also suggested that the towpath between Alexander Road and Port Mercer should be re-established. There was discussion about having this done as part of the dredging project.

Mr. Stern reported that a meeting had been held with representatives of the groups who participated in the sesquicentennial. The consensus of the group was that the celebration should become an annual affair.

Mr. Torpey suggested that the Commission meet with the County Park Commissions to see if there are ways of helping each other.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James C. Amon". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending to the left and right of the name.

James C. Amon
Executive Director

NEW JERSEY STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**MEMO**TO D & R Canal CommissionFROM Paul SternDATE November 27, 1984SUBJECT Report to the Canal Commission # 21, 16 October to 19 November 1984

Over the course of the last month we have:

- 1) Finished french drain at Blackwells Mills
- 2) Finished roof repairs at office
- 3) Finished grading and seeding South Bound Brook Lock and installed temporary vehicle barrier.
- 4) Constructed new garage doors at Bulls Island office
- 5) Replaced shop roof at Bulls Island

In the month to come:

- 1) Begin field mowing at select locations within the Millstone River Valley.
- 2) Begin winter brushing operations between Kingston and Landing Lane.
- 3) Begin tuning and repairing mowing equipment.
- 4) Begin construction of new campsites at Bulls Island.
- 5) Continue with shop improvements at Bulls Island.



PS:des