

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 19 JULY 1989

TIME: 12:00 NOON - 2:25 PM
DATE: Wednesday, 19 July 1989
PLACE: D & R Canal Commission
Prallsville Mills
Stockton, New Jersey

ATTENDING:

COMMISSIONERS: Messrs. Guidotti, Kirkland, Jessen, Jones,
Pauley, Mrs. Nash

STAFF: Messrs. Amon and Dobbs; Ms. Holms

GUESTS: Bill McKelvey, Canal Society of New Jersey
Bill Moss, Canal Society of New Jersey
Kay and Larry Pitt, Canal Society of NJ
Audrey Harker, D & R Canal Watch
John Kraml, Parks and Forestry
Barbara Thomsen, D & R Canal Watch
Paul Stern, D & R Canal State Park
Mia Morkae, Princeton
David MacRae, D & R Canal Watch
Eugene Gross, Water Supply Authority

Mr. Kirkland opened the meeting by stating that all applicable provisions of the Open Public Meeting Law of 1976 had been met.

MINUTES

Mrs. Nash moved approval of the minutes from the meeting of 21 June 1989. Mr. Jones seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

LEASES AND PERMITS

Mr. Amon reported that one lease extension was due for Commission review. Three people own a house and beauty salon near Washington Crossing State Park, with a deck on Canal Park property for which they pay \$150 per year. Mr. Amon recommended approval for a one year extension. Mr. Jessen moved approval; Mr. Pauley seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

REVIEW ZONE PROJECTS

Mr. Amon presented one A Zone project:
89-1803 - Amigh Residence

The applicant proposes to build a garage next to his house; Mr. Amon stated that the garage would not be closer to the Park's path than the existing house, and would therefore not have a harmful impact on the Canal Park. Mr. Jessen moved approval of the project, Mrs. Nash seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Dobbs presented the following B Zone projects to the Commission:

- 89-1780 - Rt. 27 Improvements at Kendall Park
- 89-1766 - Washington Oaks at Princeton
- 88-1452 - Crosspoint
- 88-1597 - Sunrise Court

Rt. 27 Widening: Mr. Dobbs reviewed the fact that although the project was by a private developer, it had to follow the Department of Transportation's guidelines since it involves a state highway. He stated that water quality for the project would be addressed by open bottom storm sewer inlets and special oil/water separator inlets at the streams, a method proposed by the D.O.T. Mr. Jessen suggested specifying detention ponds--he stated that the D.O.T.'s method of open-jointed catch basins was not a permanent solution. Mrs. Nash stated that the Commission should take issue with the D.O.T. Mr. Amon said that the D.O.T. usually goes along with DRCC's regulations, (albeit reluctantly), the major conflicts are about planning issues. Mr. Jessen moved approval of the project with the condition that the developer improve the method of detention. Mr. Guidotti seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Mr. Kirkland suggested the staff look into how much legal authority the Commission has in refuting D.O.T.'s construction plans.

Mr. Dobbs reported that Washington Oaks at Princeton, ("White Farm"), meets the Commission's standards for water quality and storm water protection, as do the projects "Crosspoint" and "Sunrise Court". Mr. Jones moved approval for these three projects, Mr. Pauley seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

REVIEW OF 1989 PRIORITIES

Mr. Amon reviewed a list of seven topics that had been selected in January of this year as the 1989 focus of the Canal Commission's actions.

1. Fund Development Projects. Mr. Amon stated that prospects were not good for the passing of three funding

bills in the near future. Mr. Jessen felt that this was an important goal for the Park, and that efforts should continue. Mr. Amon stated that a Mercer County official took note of an article about the Canal Park in The Trentonian, and as a result invited other county officials on a canoe trip to see the canal. Mr. Jones noted that the New Jersey Agricultural Society sponsors an event for legislators to visit farmlands and that a similar effort might be successful for the Canal Park.

2. Get Attention of Gubernatorial Candidates. Mr. Amon reviewed a draft of a letter to Congressmen Florio and Courter from Mr. Kirkland. Mr. Jessen said the attention of the Senate and Assembly was more important than that of the gubernatorial candidates. Barbara Thomsen stated that Congressman Courter is working on making the D & R Canal (along with the Morris Canal) a National Heritage Corridor, which would provide more funds.

3. Play a More Positive Role with Other Planning Agencies. Mr. Amon referred to several examples which illustrate the Commission staff's active role with municipal planning agencies throughout the region. Establishing guidelines for Canal Road as a Scenic Corridor was one of the examples.

4. Complete the Process of Review Zone Regulation Adoption. Mr. Amon reported that the revised regulations' response document should come up for Commission review in September.

5. Work Effectively with the NJ DOT. Mr. Kirkland suggested writing a letter to Acting Commissioner Innocenzi for the purpose of meeting with him to discuss mutual problems and their solutions, and to ask him to appoint a liaison for the D.O.T. and the Canal Commission.

6. Land Acquisitions for the Canal Park. Mr. Amon stated that over 2000 acres predetermined for acquisition are waiting to be acquired through Green Acres funding. According to Mr. Amon, the non-profit organization, D & R Greenway, is making progress; for example a 20-acre parcel that abuts Girl Scout property in Franklin Township is currently being negotiated. Also, Greenway is working on getting the New Jersey Farmland Preservation program to buy the development rights to three farms along the Stony Brook in Hopewell Township.

7. Increase Public Participation. Mr. Amon mentioned the numerous newspaper articles about the Canal Park, and stated that Mr. Stern has estimated that as many as one million people visit the park each year. Mr. Kirkland suggested a ride along the railroad right-of-way. Mr. McKelvey suggested instead a tour that used public roads, with stop-offs along the Park.

CANAL SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Stern stated that the major problem of the Park this month was the amount of rain--that mowing was taking longer than usual.

PUBLIC FORUM

Mr. McKelvey brought up the issue of safety in regard to detention basins, relating the recent drownings in East Brunswick. He also urged that the Commission and other agencies seek a solution to the problem caused by the storm sewers that drain directly into the Canal.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:25.

Respectfully submitted,


James C. Amon