

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 15 NOVEMBER 1989

TIME: 12:00 NOON - 2:10 PM  
DATE: Wednesday, 15 November 1989  
PLACE: D & R Canal Commission  
Prallsville Mills  
Stockton, NJ

ATTENDING:

COMMISSIONERS: Messrs. Kirkland, Jones, Pauley, Torpey,  
Zaikov

STAFF: Messrs. Amon and Dobbs; Ms. Holms

GUESTS: A. Gregory Chase, Water Supply Authority  
Barbara Thomsen, D & R Canal Watch  
John Kraml, Division of Parks & Forestry  
Eugene G. Gross, Water Supply Authority  
Paul Stern, D & R Canal State Park  
Kay and Larry Pitt, Canal Society of NJ  
David MacRae, D & R Canal Coalition

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

Mr. Kirkland then called attention to the death of Mayor Arthur Holland, a member of the Commission, and, "a great man".

Mr. Jones moved to pass a resolution to memorialize "our respect and admiration for our late member, and gratitude for his fifteen years of service to the Canal Commission." Mr. Kirkland seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

A discussion followed about what type of memorial would be appropriate. Messrs. Zaikov and Pauley suggested naming a place on the canal after Mayor Holland; Mr. Amon expressed reluctance to naming parts of the Canal Park because there is a lot of public confusion about the unity of the 60 mile long canal, and different names for different parts would add to that confusion about the park. Mr. Amon suggested a plaque on the newly erected pedestrian bridge at Cadwalader Park, because Mayor Holland was instrumental in keeping the park a city park.

The Commissioners agreed to discuss the issue further at the next meeting.

## MINUTES

Mr. Jones moved approval of the minutes from the meeting of 18 October 1989. Mr. Pauley seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

## LEASES

Mr. Amon reviewed one lease application for 222 square feet behind Faherty's Pub in Titusville near Washington's Crossing; the cost of the lease is \$75 per year. A deck was recently constructed over some of this property. Some neighbors were concerned about noise; however, Mr. Stern stated that he is not aware of any problem with noise or any additional litter. Mr. Torpey moved approval, Mr. Jones seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

## REVIEW ZONE PROJECTS

Mr. Dobbs presented the following B Zone projects:

1. 89-1763 - Kings Crossing at Plainsboro (Plainsboro)  
114 houses clustered on 185 acres with 88 acres dedicated to the township.
2. 89-1832 - Woodside Estates (East Windsor)  
8 houses on 5+ acres
3. 89-1791 - M.D. Properties (Ewing Township)  
one-story office warehouse
4. 89-1739 - Lawrenceville Wood (Lawrence Township)  
12 single family houses on 7 acres
5. 89-1821 - Oakridge Park III (Hopewell Township)  
12 houses on 38+ acres
6. 89-1816 - Amberwood (North Brunswick)  
380 condo units on 45 acres--51% will be open space, mostly wetlands.

For all projects, detention basins will provide for water quality and storm water protection. Mr. Dobbs recommended approval of all six projects.

Mr. Pauley moved approval of the B Zone projects; Mr. Zaikov seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

## OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Amon introduced Mr. Greg Chase of the Water Supply Authority to discuss the recent breach in the towpath in Franklin Township that happened as a result of a pipeline being installed underneath the canal by Texas Eastern.

Mr. Chase reported that the contractor for Texas Eastern had a series of problems while trying to drill under the canal for the installation of a fuel oil pipe. The contractor

tried to jack the pipe under the canal but it was deflected by rock and ended up very near the bottom of the canal. Water started leaking from the canal to the pipeline route and apparently the construction crew believed it would be wise to probe the area with reinforcing rods in order to relieve the pressure. The result was that a bad situation was made worse and a whirlpool developed in the canal which moved toward the western bank. When it reached the bank, it wiped out a fifty to seventy-five foot wide section of the canal bank, towpath and all.

Mr. Amon stated that as a result of the contractor's careless and stupid activity, the Canal Park suffered three losses in addition to the loss of ability to deliver water:

1. A portion of the historic structure is gone forever;
2. Recreational use of that two mile section of the park will not be permitted for at least 6 weeks;
3. aquatic life was lost.

Mr. Amon pointed out that the Water Supply Authority was making sure that the canal bank is properly repaired and that Texas Eastern or its contractor is responsible for all costs associated with the break. He said that there is no easy way to recover the loss of recreational use of the park, of the aquatic life, or of the piece of the historic structure which is now gone forever. Mr. Amon recommended that Texas Eastern be required to construct rip-rap on the eastern bank opposite the break as a form of compensation for the lost canal wall.

Mr. Chase felt that it was not the Water Supply Authority's obligation to negotiate those terms. He also argued against the reasonableness of Mr. Amon's proposal.

Mr. Kraml also expressed disagreement with Mr. Amon's proposal.

Mr. Jones inquired what could be learned from this accident; Mr. Amon suggested more test borings be done, and Mr. Chase suggested installing coffer dams before construction.

Mr. Pauley moved a resolution that "every effort be made to restore the stone work on both banks between the coffer dams to the appropriate standards of historical significance, according to the Commission's design standards". Mr. Zaikov seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Amon then discussed the mission of the Canal Commission with respect to the new administration. Mr. Kirkland suggested making the Canal Commission known to Governor-elect Florio; Mr. Amon advised that a letter be sent to the right person so that it would come to Florio's attention. Mr. Jones suggested sending a letter to Michael Catania. Mr. Torpey suggested setting up a meeting with Florio or his

representative, possibly Mayor John Lynch, who will be President of the Senate.

Mr. Amon handed out a list of Mayors representing municipalities connected with the Canal Park to the Commissioners. He reminded the Commissioners that the Canal Park Law of 1974 stipulates that one member of the Commission must be a mayor of a municipality "appertaining to the Canal Park".

Mrs. Thomsen asked the Commission if the opinion of the Deputy Attorney General about the Lamberton Road area's boundaries was an official attorney general's opinion. She was told that it would not be an official opinion. She then asked that the Commission request an official Attorney General's opinion.

Mr. Zaikov suggested that the Commission take the stand that the filled-in portion of the canal near the proposed Lamberton Road connector be considered Canal Park property. Mr. Kraml asserted that the Division of Parks and Forestry has never considered the abandoned portion of the canal as part of the park.

Mr. Amon stated that although it would be difficult to tell DOT not to put in a road there, that the Commission could require DOT to put a pedestrian path along the road, if this area was in fact Canal Park property.

Mr. Pauley brought up the issue of pedestrian safety at crossings of the canal. He stated that there was a particular problem of restricted visibility at the Griggstown Causeway, and that better warnings for all pedestrian crossings are needed. Mr. Stern stated that he recently wrote to each township engineer asking them to survey each crossing and to give recommendations for signs.

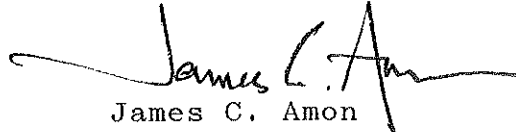
Mr. Zaikov left at 1:45.

Mr. MacRae inquired about further correspondence with DOT about the Scudders Mills interchange. Mr. Amon responded that DOT has corresponded with the Canal Commission recently, but that the interchange was still in an elemental stage--not in a design stage.

Mr. Pauley commented on the recent meeting of citizens and municipalities representing River Road, along with Canal Commission staff, to discuss design standards for that road.

The meeting adjourned at 2:10.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James C. Amon". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

James C. Amon  
Executive Director