

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 20 DECEMBER 1989

TIME: 12:00 NOON - 2:50 PM
DATE: Wednesday, 20 December 1989
PLACE: D & R Canal Commission
Prallsville Mills
Stockton, NJ

ATTENDING:

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

STAFF: Messrs. Amon and Dobbs; Ms. Holms
Deputy Attorney General Stephen Brower

GUESTS: Abe Shaikh, Water Supply Authority
Barbara Thomsen, D & R Canal Watch
John Kraml, Division of Parks & Forestry
Paul Stern, D & R Canal State Park
Kay and Larry Pitt, Canal Society of NJ
Paul Wagner, Edwards & Kelcey
Bill McKelvey, Canal Society of NJ
Young K. Park, Woodward-Clyde Consultants
Joe Dove, Woodward-Clyde Consultants

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

MINUTES

Mr. Jones moved approval of the minutes from the meeting of 15 November 1989. Mr. Pauley seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

LEASES

Mr. Amon reviewed two lease applications; Franklin Township uses a former turning basin and some land around it in East Millstone as a park for \$25 per year. The D'Altrui Horse Farm leases 39 acres on the west side of the Millstone River in Blackwell's Mills for pasture at \$10 per acre (\$390 per year). Mr. Jessen moved approval of a one year extension for both leases, Mrs. Nash seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

REVIEW ZONE PROJECTS

Mr. Amon presented one A Zone project:

89-1852 - Bank Street Parking Garage (Trenton)
NJ Treasury Dept./Div. of Buildings & Construction

The 1.6 acre site is immediately across Chauncey Street from the D & R Canal State Park. A 7-deck parking garage will hold 1,058 cars and house a headquarters for the Capitol Police Department. The tallest part of the building is approximately 75 feet high. Between the structure and Chauncey Street is a small surface parking lot with a wrought iron fence. Trees planted inside the fence will buffer the area from the park. A view of the Capitol Dome will be obstructed from a portion of the Canal Park.

Mr. Pauley suggested having plantings outside of the fence as well as inside.

Mr. Amon said that he believed that there were trees already on the other side of Chauncey. Mr. Stern agreed, saying that there were ten to fifteen willows.

Mr. Amon stated that the Commission was in a difficult position, because the construction contract had already been let. Mr. Kirkland stated that one of the purposes of the Canal Commission is to straighten things out among State agencies, and that something should be done to let other State agencies know that the Commission must be considered.

Mr. Pauley moved disapproval of the project, with the recommendation that every effort be made to improve the undesirable impact that the building will have on the park. Mrs. Nash seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Dobbs presented the following B Zone projects:

1. 87-1357 - Torsiello (Monroe Twp.)
one-story warehouse on 6+ acres.
2. 89-1718C - South Middlesex Industrial Park, SM1160 & 1170 (Monroe Twp.)
two 1-story office/warehouse buildings on 25+ acres.
3. 89-1831 - Forsgate Parcel S-137 (South Brunswick)
one-story office/warehouse building on 29+ acres.
4. 89-1747 - International Corporate Center (West Windsor)
one 3-story office research building on 10+ acres.
5. 89-1787 - Foxburrow Hunt (Millstone Township)
20 houses on 72 acres.
6. 89-1839 - Ewing Municipal Building (Ewing Twp.)
municipal building on 30 acres.
7. 88-1691 - Franklin Associates (Franklin Twp.)
19 houses on 71 acres.

8. 89-1820 - Hunters Ridge Dr. Development (Hopewell Twp.)
18 houses on 49+ acres.
9. 89-1769 - Stony Brook at Montgomery (Montgomery Twp.)
33 houses on 42 acres.
10. 89-1806 - Belle Mead-Griggstown Road Improvements
(Montgomery Township)
Widening and replacement of existing bridges. Review
Zone Officer shall inspect 4 completed basins prior to
start of construction of roadway improvements as
condition of approval.

Mr. Dobbs stated that in all 10 applications, water quality and storm water management have been satisfied, and he recommended approval. Mr. Jessen moved approval of the projects, Mrs. Nash seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Dobbs then presented another B Zone project:

11. 88-1621 - Mountain View Crossing at 206 Phase I
(Hillsborough Township)
two 1-story buildings on 8+ acres.

Mr. Dobbs recommended that this application be denied approval for the following reasons:

1. Stormwater runoff from a roadway which amounts to 25% of the total impervious surface is undetained.
2. The basin on lot 4.06 lies totally within the 100 year flood zone. In spite of DRCC regulations which call for enlarging the basin when so situated, the applicant has refused to do so.
3. In spite of a letter from the County stating that there is no flood hazard without full detention, the staff has seen nothing from the County on the Pike Run regional flood control plan.

Mrs. Nash moved that the application be denied approval; Mr. Pauley seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY PROJECTS

1. Maintenance Dredging

Mr. Shaikh stated that emergency dredging has begun to remove gravel and other sediment that has been deposited into the canal from the Wickecheoke Creek at Prallsville Mills. Although the stones have been pushed aside to open up the canal, the Water Supply Authority is still waiting for the necessary permit to remove the stones. This dredging plan was approved for Raven Rock to Prallsville, and from Kingston to New Brunswick, in September, 1988.

Mr. Amon stated that over the last several years he has often suggested that the Water Supply Authority inquire about the removal of the stone by a private contractor, at the contractor's expense. He felt that it would be a scandalous waste of public funds to remove the stones with WSA equipment and personnel if it can be done at no cost by a private contractor.

After discussion of methods for stone removal, and permits necessary to do the work, Mr. Jessen moved approval of the temporary dredging, with the recommendation that WSA pursue a private contractor to remove the material and that the proper permits be acquired to remove the balance of the material from the Wickecheoke. Mrs. Nash seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

2. Seepage at Edgewood Avenue.

Because of complaints of flooding in basements since 1986 in the Edgewood Avenue neighborhood, WSA has drilled test wells to find out where the water is coming from. Consultants from Woodward-Clyde stated that a combination of ground water and canal water showed up, and that they cannot prove that the canal is not leaking--when the canal level goes up, the flooding goes up as well. Minor repairs are also needed to a culvert which carries an unnamed creek under the canal in this area.

After a discussion of what was entailed in the repair, Mr. Jessen moved conceptual approval to install a grout curtain which will intercept the water, Mrs. Nash seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

3. Parkside Avenue Aqueduct

For several years there has been water seeping onto Parkside Avenue and the sidewalk under the aqueduct that carries the canal over that road. Investigations have been made by Woodward-Clyde and a preliminary plan has been proposed to build a French drain which would direct water to the storm sewer.

After discussion with the Woodward-Clyde representatives, Mr. Jessen moved conceptual approval of the repair work. Mr. Pauley seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

SELECTION OF MEETING DATE FOR 1990

The Commissioners decided to keep the meeting date for 1990 the same as 1989--the third Wednesday of each month, at 12:00 noon. Mr. Pauley suggested having the meetings held at various locations in the Canal Park's vicinity.

Mr. Pauley moved approval, Mrs. Nash seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

REVIEW OF LETTER TO GOVERNOR-ELECT FLORIO

Mr. Amon stated he had received comments from some of the Commissioners about the draft letter to Florio, and that he would accordingly make the requested changes. It was agreed that after these changes were made, Mr. Kirkland should sign it.

DISCUSSION OF MAYOR HOLLAND MEMORIAL

Mr. Amon stated that Director Marshall, Division of Parks and Forestry, said that there is no policy regarding naming parks after people, but that it was strongly discouraged. Mr. Amon recommended a memorial plaque that recognized Mayor Holland's importance to the Canal Park, to be placed on or near the Cadwalader Park bridge that spans the canal.

Mr. Jessen suggested a photograph and suitable inscription, along with a personal history, be on the plaque.

Mrs. Nash asked if there were any alternative sites where it might be seen by more people. Mr. Amon said he would look into it. The Commission asked Mr. Amon to prepare a draft of the text for the plaque and to obtain a suitable photograph.

SIERRA CLUB SIGN PROJECT

Mr. Amon reported that the Sierra Club has commitments from seven or eight groups to sponsor interpretive signs that are to be erected along the canal. The signs cost \$600 each, and the Sierra Club wanted to know if the Commissioners would sponsor a sign. Mr. Jones suggested that they be approached again once some signs have already been installed.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Amon stated that Commissioner Daggett would be announcing the formation of the Six Mile Run Reservoir State Park at 2:30 P.M. The Memorandum of Agreement between Parks and Water Resources states that if the area is not to be a reservoir, it will be a park.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

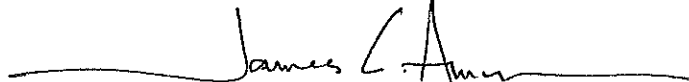
Mr. Stern stated that most of this month was taken up with cleaning up the wind-blown debris from a recent big storm; over 40 cords of wood were picked up from Bull's Island to Trenton. Trees are being pruned near Frenchtown, and equipment is being repaired.

PUBLIC FORUM

Mrs. Thomsen asked whether the Commissioners changed an unofficial request for a Deputy Attorney General's opinion about the boundaries of the Canal Park in the Lamberton Road area to a request for an official opinion. Mr. Amon stated that the Commission would wait to hear the outcome of the unofficial opinion, because an official opinion would take much longer.

The meeting adjourned at 2:50 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James C. Amon", written over a horizontal line.

James C. Amon
Secretary