

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 17 JANUARY 1990

TIME: 12:00 NOON - 2:15 PM  
DATE: Wednesday, 17 January 1990  
PLACE: D & R Canal Commission  
Prallsville Mills  
Stockton, NJ



DELAWARE AND RARITAN  
CANAL COMMISSION

ATTENDING:

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

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

GUESTS: Karyn Colombo, Courier-News  
Ursula Buchanan, D & R Canal Coalition  
Dolly Minis, D & R Canal Watch  
Abigail Barrows, D & R Canal Coalition  
Paul Stern, D & R Canal State Park  
Kay and Larry Pitt, Canal Society of NJ  
Susan Kardas, Historic Sites Research  
Edward Larrabee, Historic Sites Research  
Robert Harrison, NJ WSA  
Thomas Price, NJ WSA  
Leo Coakley, P.E., Killam Associates  
Ed Buss, NJ WSA  
Fred Fox, Geonics  
Bill Moss, Canal Society of New Jersey  
John Kraml, Div. Parks & Forestry  
Robert Mettler, Franklin Township  
Jean Brandes, Newark Star Ledger

Mr. Kirkland opened the meeting by stating that all applicable provisions of the Open Public Meeting Law of 1976 had been met. He then announced that on 11 January, 1990, Acting Commissioner Helen Fenske signed the Regulations for Stream Corridor Impact and Traffic Impact. Mr. Kirkland congratulated Mr. Amon and thanked him on behalf of the Commissioners for his hard work.

MINUTES

Mr. Jessen moved approval of the minutes from the meeting of 20 December 1989. Mr. Jones seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

PRALLSVILLE MILLS P.O. BOX 539 STOCKTON, NJ 08558-0539 609-397-2000 FAX: 609-397-1081

<b>EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR</b> James C. Amon	<b>COMMISSIONERS</b> Benjamin B. Kirkland <i>Chairman</i>	Martin D. Jessen <i>Vice-Chairman</i>	Donald H. Jones <i>Treasurer</i>	Stuart R. Zalkov R. William Pauley	Judith A. Yaskin Frank J. Torpey	Winona D. Nash
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NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
James J. Florio, Governor Judith A. Yaskin, Commissioner

## ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN AND TREASURER

Mrs. Nash moved that Mr. Jessen remain Vice-Chairman of the Canal Commission. Mr. Jones moved that the nomination for Vice-Chairman be closed, Mr. Pauley seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. Mr. Jessen moved the nomination of Mr. Jones for Treasurer, Mrs. Nash seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

## REVIEW ZONE PROJECTS

Mr. Amon presented one A Zone project:

88-1725 - Bowner Grist Mill (Lambertville)  
conversion of mill to 3-unit apartment building

Mr. Amon highly recommended that this project be approved, because it would greatly enhance the location in the Canal Park. The applicant proposes to restore a historic grist mill that adjoins the towpath.

Mr. Jessen moved approval of the project, Mr. Pauley seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Dobbs presented the following B Zone projects:

1. 88-1635 - Harvest Ridge (West Amwell Township)  
33 single family homes
2. 88-1426A - Cherry Valley Phase II (Montgomery Twp.)  
180 single family cluster houses
3. 89-1827 - Hickory Brook (Montgomery Township)  
14 single family houses
4. 89-1765A - Plainsboro Community Housing (Plainsboro Twp)  
126 affordable housing units

Mr. Dobbs stated that for the project Harvest Ridge, there will be one detention basin; seven lots that do not drain to the basin will have 50 ft. conservation easements and dry wells for water quality. With regard to Cherry Valley Phase II, 7 lake/basins and one detention basin will provide for water quality; 39 acres are dedicated to open space. Hickory Brook will have one detention basin plus easements (almost 50% of the land is wetlands); and for Plainsboro Community Housing, one basin shared by Wyndhurst Development (previously approved) will provide for water quality.

Mrs. Nash moved approval for the four projects; Mr. Pauley seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

## WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY PROJECT: RANDOLPH BROOK CULVERT

Mr. Edward Buss of the Water Supply Authority introduced Mr. Leo Coakley of Killam, Associates, who has been on this project since the culvert failure. Randolph Brook flows under the canal, downstream of the confluence of the Raritan and Millstone Rivers, west of I-287. A large sink hole on the towpath (at least 4 feet deep) was discovered, indicating the failure of the culvert. When the culvert was de-watered, the only thing holding up the culvert were interlocking rocks. Emergency repair consisted of 3 lengths of 5-foot-diameter corrugated pipe being slid into the culvert, and pumping in grout (a temporary repair). Permanent repairs will involve restoring the downstream headwall (now collapsed) and wing walls (partially collapsed) to their pre-existing state; they will not require extra concrete support because there is no nearby highway loading. The upstream end is in good shape; the original arch work will remain.

After discussing alternatives for the repair of the culvert with Mr. Amon, the Office of New Jersey Heritage, and the Cultural Resource Investigators, Mr. Coakley concluded the best method would be a steel plate liner that would be able to retain the original shape of the culvert. Grout would be placed between the steel and the stones, and concrete would be put on the bottom two feet. Mr. Jessen questioned the necessity of 2-foot buttresses, as they would inhibit flow. Mr. Coakley said he would check to see if the angle of the concrete buttresses could be made less severe.

Representatives of Historic Sites Research, the Cultural Resource Investigators hired for the project, were satisfied that the project was being repaired in a manner that kept historic structures intact; the headwall would be preserved, the culvert would retain the original shape, and the wood underneath the structure would not be destroyed.

Mr. Jessen moved conceptual approval of the project, Mr. Jones seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

## DISCUSSION OF HUNTERDON COUNTY SOLID WASTE LANDFILL

Mr. Amon said that Hunterdon County has not submitted any information to the NJ DEP or the Canal Commission on their proposed landfill site. Therefore, no official action can be taken. Since the proposed site is in the headwaters of both the Lockatong and Wickecheoke Creeks, however, Mr. Amon said that he would like to keep the Commission informed about the issues relevant to the Canal Park. He introduced Mr. Fred Fox, a geologist who has been studying the issue closely.

According to Mr. Fox, the Franklin Township site is not the best site and there are many other more suitable sites, some in the northern part of the county and one in the western part. He stressed the importance of groundwater when picking a site; in his opinion it is the most important environmental consideration because it is not easy to clean up. Problems with the site include high groundwater, which is connected with deeper water, fractured rock under the site, and thin soil cover, which would require trucking in more dirt. He also stated that landfill liners are not guaranteed against leaks.

Mr. Jessen agreed with Mr. Fox that placing a landfill at the headwaters of the Wickecheoke Creek, which drains into the canal, could jeopardize the water quality of the canal. He suggested sending a certified letter to the Hunterdon County freeholders expressing the Commission's deep concern over the potential quality of water that drains from the proposed landfill. Mrs. Nash stated that the letter should make reference to the letter the Commission received from the freeholders' counsel, acknowledging the Commission's previous resolution. She said that it should also state that the county should not count on the Commission's approval for this project. Mr. Jessen said the letter should also state what the Commission's authority is, and Mr. Jones stated that the letter should state that money should not become a reason to force an approval.

#### REVIEW OF 1989 ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND 1990 GOALS

After reviewing his list of the Commission's 1989 accomplishments, Mr. Amon said that although the Commission did everything they could, the results were mixed, because many of these subjects were outside the Commission's control.

Mr. Amon stressed that 1990's top priority goal for the Commission should be land preservation. He said that he and the staff would continue to work with the Green Acres Office, county and municipal agencies, and non-profit groups like the D & R Greenway to preserve land along the canal.

Mr. Amon said that in addition to the overall goals for the office, he recommends three projects for the Commission's staff to work on this year: developing an interpretive program, producing wildlife surveys, and writing an addendum to the MASTER PLAN with principles and objectives for scenic corridors on bordering roads.

Mrs. Buchanan stated that a small pamphlet with dates, facts, and pictures about the Canal Park would be helpful; Mr. Amon said that Canal Watch was currently applying for a grant to produce a User's Guide. Mr. Jessen suggested talking to Lance Metz about interpretive programs; Mr. Moss and

Mr. Torpey both agreed that a video production was a good idea.

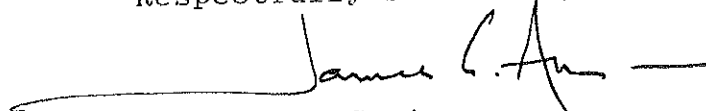
#### CANAL PARK SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Stern stated that four new gates at the Harrison Street Bridge were now in use. He said that DOT was in the process of locating Lock #2 (at the Commission's request), and while doing so, bulldozed one of the park gates. The office at Bull's Island is being painted.

Mr. Brower spoke briefly about the Lamberton Road Connector issue. He said that he has met with the DOT and with their Deputy Attorney General and he is waiting for them to provide him details on the relevant deeds.

The meeting adjourned at 2:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James C. Amon", with a long horizontal line extending to the left and a vertical line extending downwards to the right.

James C. Amon  
Executive Director

# COMMISSION MEETING

1/17/90

## NAME

## ORGANIZATION

- |     |                  |                         |
|-----|------------------|-------------------------|
| 1.  | Karyn Colombo    | Courier-News            |
| 2.  | Ursula Buchanan  | D & R Canal Coalition   |
| 3.  | Dolly Trinis     | D & R Canal Watch       |
| 4.  | Ajail Sanson     | D & R Canal Coalition   |
| 5.  | Susan Kardas     | HISTORIC Sites Research |
| 6.  | EDWARD LARRABEE  | " " "                   |
| 7.  | Robert Harrison  | NJWSA                   |
| 8.  | Thomas Price     | NJWSA                   |
| 9.  | Leo Conkley PE   | KILLAM ASSOCIATES       |
| 10. | Ed Buss          | NJWSA                   |
| 11. | FRED FOX         | GENICS                  |
| 12. | Bill M... ..     | CGNT                    |
| 13. | Larry & Kay Pitt | CGNT                    |
| 14. | John Kraml       | DIV Parks & Forestry    |
| 15. | P. Stern         | " " "                   |
| 16. | R. Mettler       | Franklin Township       |
| 17. | Jon Brandes      | Star Judge              |