

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 21 FEBRUARY 1990

TIME: 12:00 NOON - 2:20 PM  
DATE: Wednesday, 21 February 1990  
PLACE: Mary Jacobs Library  
Rocky Hill, NJ



DELAWARE AND RARITAN  
CANAL COMMISSION

ATTENDING:

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

STAFF: Messrs. Amon and Dobbs; Ms. Holms

GUESTS: Adra Fairman, Rockingham Association  
Ursula Buchanan, D & R Canal Coalition  
Norman Mathis, Somerset County Eng. Dept.  
John Kraml, Jr., Parks and Forestry  
Paul Stern, D & R Canal State Park  
Kay and Larry Pitt, Canal Society of NJ  
Charlotte Wengel, Blackwell's Mills  
Joe Skupien, Somerset County Eng. Dept.  
Bill Moss, Canal Society of NJ  
Abe Shaikh, Water Supply Authority  
A. Gregory Chase, Water Supply Authority  
Babs Thomsen, D & R Canal Watch

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

Mr. Amon announced that a change in policy regarding lunch was made; lunch will now be provided by the State for non-paid Commissioners only.

MINUTES

Mrs. Nash moved approval of the minutes from the meeting of 17 January 1990. Mr. Pauley seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

LEASES AND PERMITS

Mr. Amon recommended a one-year extension be given to Mr. Abraham Finkel of Lambertville to use Canal Park property as part of a warehousing operation for his hardware business, at a cost of \$75 per year. Mrs. Nash moved approval of the lease extension, Mr. Pauley seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

PRALLSVILLE MILLS

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EXECUTIVE  
DIRECTOR

James C. Amon

COMMISSIONERS

Benjamin B. Kirkland  
Chairman

Martin D. Jessen  
Vice-Chairman

Donald B. Jones  
Treasurer

Stuart R. Zaikov  
R. William Pauley

Judith A. Yaskin  
Frank J. Torpey

Winona D. Nash

NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

James J. Florio, Governor Judith A. Yaskin, Commissioner

## REVIEW ZONE PROJECTS

Mr. Dobbs presented four B Zone projects:

1. 88-1724 - NJ State Police Office/Warehouse Complex; a one-story building on 3 1/2 acres in Ewing Township.
2. 89-1765 - Wyndhurst (Plainsboro Township); 120 buildings making up 458 multi-family units on 124 acres with 50 acres of open space; 2 detention basins.
3. 84-0377 - Maidenhead Meadows (Lawrence Township); 274 apartment/townhouse units on 27+ acres, one basin.
4. 88-1712 - Cornerstone Church (Hopewell Township); one-story church on 5+ acres, one detention basin.

Mr. Dobbs stated that all four projects met water quality and storm water management requirements and recommended approval. Mr. Zaikov moved approval of the Review Zone projects, Mrs. Nash seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

## DISCUSSION OF CORNERSTONE CHURCH

Mr. Amon stated that construction for the Cornerstone Church project had already begun and that Hopewell Township had issued a permit without the approval of DRCC. Because the detention basin had already been installed and meets the DRCC stormwater management standards, Mr. Amon resolved the issue with the Township. However, he asked the Commission if they would like to have a blanket policy regarding this problem. Mrs. Nash stated that each case was unique and required individual treatment. Mr. Zaikov suggested the Commissioners be polled. Mr. Amon stated that if a municipality developed a history of conflicts with the Commission, it should be taken up with the Commissioners. The Commissioners agreed.

## DISCUSSION OF SOMERSET COUNTY'S REGIONAL BASIN SYSTEM

Mr. Skupien of the Somerset County Engineering Department began the discussion by stating that Mr. Dobbs, Mr. Amon, and he had just returned from an inspection of a regional detention basin in Princeton Township. Mr. Skupien felt that implementation of regional basins in Somerset County will reduce the cost of maintaining private basins. Although in theory single family residential developments are required to maintain their own detention basins, in fact this does not happen, and the County has taken over the maintenance.

In addition, a regional basin disturbs slightly less than one acre of land, and will functionally replace 4 to 5 onsite basins which disturb one acre each, thereby saving open space.

Mr. Amon asked whether the County Engineering Department was in favor of planting trees in the basins. Mr. Skupien responded that he would encourage leaving basins in their

natural state (floodplain/woodlands), because experience has shown that the areas are often too muddy to mow if grass has been planted. Mrs. Nash asked whether the County could back-charge homeowners' associations for maintenance costs; Mr. Skupien answered that this was being looked into.

Mr. Skupien then gave a status report on the Royce Brook Detention Plan and the Pike Run Regional Stormwater Management Plan. He said that one basin in the Royce Brook area has been built and plans are progressing for other basins in both regions but they have run into problems with the freshwater wetlands program. He hopes to resolve those problems soon and continue with the regional system.

Finally, Mr. Skupien requested the Canal Commission's cooperation with the department's ongoing studies for detention basins--whether or not they will be regional or onsite.

#### WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY PROJECTS

##### 1. North Brunswick Water Treatment Plant Dredging

Mr. Greg Chase of New Jersey Water Supply Authority summarized the plans of the North Brunswick Water Treatment Plant to remove sludge hydraulically with a floating dredge. The sludge will be piped out to a temporary holding area, left to drain, and then removed to a landfill area. Mr. Amon stated that there would be good consequences resulting from the dredging, and that the only detrimental effect would be some minor disturbance when piping sediment from the canal to the detaining area.

Mr. Pauley moved approval to authorize Mr. Amon to approve the permit. Mrs. Nash seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Abe Shaikh of New Jersey Water Supply Authority discussed plans for Edgewood and Parkside Avenues Aqueducts; he stated that the final draft would be ready in March.

#### DISCUSSION OF ROCKY HILL AND D & R CANAL

Mr. Amon spoke of the D & R Canal's relationship with Rocky Hill. He outlined a brief history of the town, talked about how the canal influenced the town's industry during the nineteenth century, and presented historical photos along with a historic map of Rocky Hill and the canal.

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Amon summarized a meeting held by Congressman James Courter and several commissioners about the proposed Morris and D & R Canals National Heritage Corridor. He recommended to Congressman Courter that a member of the Canal Commission have a permanent seat on the National Heritage Corridor Commission, and that the planning efforts of the state commission be incorporated into those of the national commission. The bill proposes that the federal government appropriate \$860,000 to be matched by the state for the Corridor, and that the funds would be used for planning and development of the corridor as a historical site.

Mr. Zaikov moved approval that the Commission support Courter's proposal for a National Heritage Corridor; Mr. Pauley seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Amon announced that the Canal Commission would again be sponsoring a team for the World Series of Birding, a fund-raising event held by New Jersey Audubon Society. He stated that in order to collect funds raised by the team to be used by the Commission for a wildlife survey for the Canal Park, a dedicated account was necessary. Mr. Jones moved approval of setting up a dedicated account to be used for revenues and expenses related to a wildlife survey for the Canal Park. Mr. Pauley seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Amon announced that the Plasma Physics Lab in Princeton invited the Commissioners to hold their March meeting at Lab, and to take a tour of the facility after the meeting. The general consensus of the Commissioners was that this would be agreeable.

## CANAL SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Stern reported that D.O.T. was resurfacing the towpath between Harrison Street and Alexander Street in Princeton. Maintenance pruning is being done near Bull's Island. Mr. Pauley mentioned that the new street lighting near the parking lot at Weston Canal Road was misleading--that the lights did not indicate a turn in the road. Mr. Stern stated that gates were installed at the Harrison Street bridge.

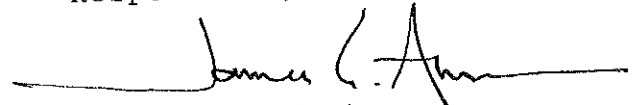
## PUBLIC FORUM

Mrs. Ursula Buchanan asked whether there was any way to save two historic houses on Canal Road currently owned by Trap Rock Quarry. Mr. Amon stated that there was not much the Canal Commission could do. Mrs. Barbara Thomsen asked about the status of the DBC parking garage in Trenton. Mr. Amon responded that he gave DBC the suggestions from the Commission that more landscape buffer be planted. Mr. Pauley asked whether a large tree survey had ever been conducted for

the Canal Park, and suggested that this might be a useful inventory.

The meeting adjourned at 2:20 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

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

James C. Amon  
Executive Director

COMMISSIONERS MEETING  
FEBRUARY 21, 1990

NAME

ORGANIZATION

1. Adra Fairman - Put on agenda list  
Rochingham Area
2. Babo Thomsen  
D&R Canal Watch
3. NORMAN MATHIS  
SOMERSET COUNTY ASST ENGR
4. John Kraml Jr  
NJ Div Parks & Forestry
5. Kaye Larry Pitt  
CSNJ
6. Leslie Buchanan  
D.R. Canal Coalition
7. Charlotte Weig  
Blackwells Mills
8. JOE SKUPIEN  
SOMERSET COUNTY ENG. DEPT
9. BILL MOSS  
CANAL SOCIETY OF N.J.
10. Paul Stern  
Parks
11. Abe Shaikh  
NJWSA
12. A. Gregory Chase  
N.J.W.S.P.
- 13.