

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 19 SEPTEMBER 1990

TIME: 12:00 NOON - 3:00 PM
DATE: Wednesday, 15 August 1990
PLACE: D & R Canal Commission
Prallsville Mills
Stockton, NJ



DELAWARE AND RARITAN
CANAL COMMISSION

ATTENDING:

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

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

GUESTS: Paul Stern, D & R Canal State Park
Barbara Thomsen, D & R Canal Watch
Joe Bird
Ron Sendner, Middlesex County
Bhai Patel, Middlesex County
John Kraml, Jr., Div. of Parks & Forestry
Kay and Larry Pitt, Canal Society of NJ
Mark Platz, Donald H. Stires Assoc.
Jack K. Rimalover, Rockingham
Lynn Rakes, Hunter Research Inc.
Tony DiLodovico, Schoor Engineering
Ron Curcio, Adams, Rehmann & Heggan
Ed Buss, NJ Water Supply Authority
Don Kroeck, NJ Water Supply Authority
Chet Shah, Buchart-Horn
Chris Dwyer, Buchart-Horn
Ed Brown, Goodkind & O'Dea
Richard Minino, Goodkind & O'Dea
June Sadlowski, Preservation Coalition of
New Jersey
Abigail Barrows, Franklin Citizen Orderly
Planning
Mary Jane Post, Preservation Coalition of
New Jersey
Will Rivinus, Friends of Delaware Canal
Bill Moss, Canal Society of NJ
Gordon Keith, D & R Canal Watch
Bruce Grosse, K. Hovnanian
Raymond Papa, Najarian & Assoc.
Lewis Kurland, K. Hovnanian
Thomas Piscitelli, K. Hovnanian
George M. Conway, Trap Rock, Ind., Inc.
Steve Osborne, Trap Rock Ind., Inc.
Eugene G. Gross, NJ WSA

PRALLSVILLE MILLS

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EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR
James C. Amon

COMMISSIONERS
Benjamin B. Kirkland
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Martin D. Jessen
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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

Mr. Kirkland opened the meeting and announced that this was a regular meeting of the D & R Canal Commission and that all provisions of the Open Public Meeting Law of 1976 had been met.

MINUTES

Mr. Jessen moved approval of the Minutes of 15 August 1990; Mrs. Nash seconded the approval, and the motion carried unanimously.

LEASES AND PERMITS

Mr. Amon presented two lease applications to the Commissioners. The first was a request from PSE & G to renew a one-year lease for the Baker's Basin Substation on Canal Park property. PSE & G intends to finish dismantling the structure, and therefore will not renew in 1991. The second application is from the New Jersey Recreation and Parks Association, a non-profit organization that wishes to lease the Griggstown Bridgetender's house. Mr. Pauley moved to approve the leases, Mr. Jessen seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

REVIEW ZONE

Mr. Amon presented the following "A" Zone projects:

- 90-1934 - York Street Storm Sewer - Lambertville;
a new sewer line to direct runoff into an existing line; no new impervious surface.
- 90-1933 - Martorana Residence - Hopewell Township;
house addition on rear of building, away from Canal Park; visual impact is negligible.
- 90-1899A - PSE & G Holding Tanks - Hamilton Twp.;
5 temporary wash-up trailers with 5 underground holding tanks, installed for 5 years during construction on Duck Island.
- 88-1647 - Somerset Cty. Park Commission Maintenance Building - Franklin Township;
approved previously in 1988; new proposal to move the building 100 feet closer to canal; no visual impact.
- 90-1931 - Landing Lane Bridge - New Brunswick;
new bridge is same alignment as existing historic truss bridge, but slightly wider, with modern design. Impact on Canal Park is visual.

Mr. Jones joined the meeting at 12:20.

Mr. Jessen objected to the existing bridge being torn down; he felt that the new bridge should be built beside it. A representative from Middlesex County stated that it would

cost three times as much to save the existing bridge, and that even if it were saved, it might not function properly. Ms. Sadlowski requested that parts of the bridge be preserved and photographs be taken to document it. Mr. Jessen asked whether or not the portals could be saved. Mr. Pauley inquired about the report from the Office of New Jersey Heritage (under review). Mr. Jessen asked whether the Commission had the authority to approve this proposal. Mr. Amon stated that there would be no impact on the recreational or ecological aspects of the Canal Park. He said that the proposed bridge is only a couple of feet wider than the existing bridge so the traffic impact on the park will not increase. He said that the existing bridge is not in the canal's historic district but it does have a beneficial historic impact that would be lost by its removal.

Mr. Marshall joined the meeting at 12:40 PM.

Mrs. Nash moved withholding approval until the Commissioners could see the report from the Office of New Jersey Heritage. Mr. Jessen seconded the motion; Messrs. Jessen, Jones, Kirkland, Pauley, Torpey, and Mrs. Nash voted to withhold approval. Mr. Marshall abstained. The motion carried.

Mr. Jessen then moved to approve the other "A" Zone projects; Mr. Pauley seconded the motion; Messrs. Jessen, Jones, Kirkland, Pauley, Torpey, and Mrs. Nash voted to approve the projects; Mr. Marshall abstained. The motion carried.

Mr. Dobbs presented one "B" Zone project:

90-1911 - G.E. Astro Space Parking - E. Windsor Twp.;
2 new parking lots with 99,500 square feet of
new impervious surface. Two new detention
basins will provide for stormwater management.

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

Mr. Dobbs then presented two applications requesting a waiver from the Stream Corridor regulation: In Lawrence Township a project (Klockner) comprised of 8 houses on 25 acres is being proposed; .16 acres would encroach into the 100-foot buffer area. In return for this encroachment, the developer has agreed to put a conservation easement on .34 acres.

Mr. Brower joined the meeting at 12:45 PM.

Mrs. Nash stated that she had no objections to the project, because Lawrence Township resolved the traffic issues. Mr. Jones moved to waive strict compliance to the stream corridor regulations, Mr. Jessen seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Dobbs reviewed the second application; in Hopewell Township (Nob Hill), a site for 539 houses has 3 streams running through it--tributaries to the Shabakunk Creek. The developer has proposed to deed restrict 9.1 acres, in return for encroaching on 4.2 acres in the buffer area. Mr. Jessen moved to waive strict compliance to the stream corridor regulation, Mr. Jones seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

WSA REPAIR OF CULVERT AT STATION 2344+17

A sinkhole on the towpath upstream of East Millstone has developed as a result of the partial collapse of a culvert. The preliminary plan for repair calls for headwalls on both ends to be rebuilt; missing stones will be replaced. The central portion of the culvert will be coated with shotcrete. Mr. Jessen asked whether this would be reinforced; Mr. Buss replied yes. A representative from Hunter Research Inc., the cultural resource consultant, stated that although full restoration is preferred, the proposed compromise is satisfactory. Mr. Jessen moved conceptual approval of the project, Mr. Pauley seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

REVIEW OF STATUS OF TRAP ROCK/ROCKINGHAM PROJECT

Mr. Amon reviewed the latest development in regard to Trap Rock Industry's proposed new road in Franklin Township. He said that the Division of Parks and Forestry has been actively pursuing the idea of moving Rockingham to a site overlooking the canal on land owned by Trap Rock. Negotiations are proceeding between TRI and DPF that would involve the acquisition of land for a new site by the State and the sale of the land on which Rockingham is now located. The State has also been asked to sell approximately one-third of an acre of Canal Park land to TRI so that they can build the new road on it.

Trap Rock needs to move quickly on this project so Mr. Amon recommended that the Commission pass a resolution that approves the sale of the one-third of an acre of Canal Park land. Mr. Jessen moved approval of the sale of the 1/3 acre of parkland to Trap Rock Industry. Mrs. Nash seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

DELAWARE AND LEHIGH NAVIGATIONAL CANAL NATIONAL HERITAGE CORRIDOR DISCUSSION

Mr. Will Rivinus, Chairman of the Delaware and Lehigh Navigational Canal National Heritage Corridor Commission, discussed the status of the Commission's efforts. The Commission received \$350,000 from the National Park Service for the purpose of preparing a Master Plan that would help to preserve, protect, restore and interpret the

corridor. He described four projects currently in progress:
1) HAER is taking measurements of the Bethlehem forging plant. 2) In conjunction with other environmental groups, the Commission is surveying, charting and mapping the natural resources of the corridor. 3) With the help of Penn State, the Commission is documenting man's impact on the landscape. 4) The Commission hired a consultant to find out how best to communicate with the 60 government agencies and 200 public advocacy groups that have an interest in the corridor.

Mr. Amon asked whether the state was obligated to match the federal funding. Mr. Rivinus replied yes, but it could be loosely interpreted; for example, money necessary for repair of the canal could be used as matching funds.

Mr. Amon then said that he had been very supportive of this idea for the D & R but he is now having second thoughts. He said that the main goal of the Heritage Corridor project seems to be planning but the Canal Commission and the State Park Service have pretty well done all the planning needed for the D & R. He went on to say that he was also concerned that if the State had to contribute to the planning efforts it would be likely that this money would prevent contributions toward the physical improvement of the Canal Park. He asked Mr. Rivinus for a response to these thoughts.

Mr. Rivinus said that he thought these points were of real concern but the Heritage Corridor is more than just the canal that is in its center. The focus on the entire corridor, he said, was very helpful to the canal.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Amon discussed the proposal by the U.S. Fish Game and Wildlife Service to stock the Delaware River with a Pacific salmon species. He felt that there could be a negative impact on the Canal Park as a result, and recommended the Commission pass a resolution directing Mr. Amon to address the Commission's concerns to the appropriate federal and state agencies, and to ensure that the EIS address conformance with the Canal Park's Master Plan. Mrs. Nash moved the above-mentioned suggestions, Mr. Torpey seconded the motion; Messrs. Kirkland, Jones, Pauley, Marshall, Torpey, and Mrs. Nash voted in favor of the resolution; Mr. Jessen voted against. The motion passed.

Mr. Amon stated that work was going forward with respect to increasing the Commission's appropriation, and that a presentation before the legislative Appropriations Committee may be in order, after discussing the plans with Commissioner Yaskin, Acting Assistant Commissioner Hall, and Director Marshall. Mr. Torpey suggested presenting the total picture--not only administrative needs, but capital plans and

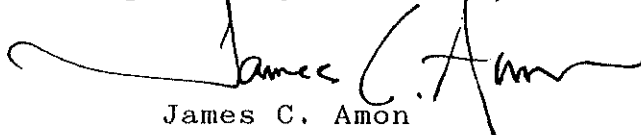
land acquisition needs. Mr. Amon agreed to present a further detailed proposal to the Commissioners.

PUBLIC FORUM

Mrs. Thomsen asked why the Commissioners approved the Lamberton Road connector on August 31, when they had withheld approval on August 15. Mr. Jessen replied that the boundary issue had been resolved, and that the Department of Transportation had conformed with the Master Plan as closely as possible.

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 PM.

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 left.

James C. Amon
Executive Director