

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 18 SEPTEMBER 1991

TIME: 12:15 PM - 2:15 PM  
DATE: Wednesday, 18 September 1991  
PLACE: D & R Canal Commission Office  
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  
Ms. Carol Blasi, Deputy Attorney General

GUESTS: Paul Stern, Div. Parks & Forestry  
Joe Bird  
Babs Thomsen, D & R Canal Watch  
Kay & Larry Pitt, Canal Society of NJ  
Bill Moss, Canal Society of NJ  
A. Gregory Chase, NJ Water Supply Auth.  
Linda House, Canal Society of NJ

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. Jones moved approval of the minutes of the meeting of 21 August 1991; Mr. Pauley seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

LEASES

Mr. Amon reviewed an application for a one-year lease extension in Hillsborough Township. Mr. Frank Raucci leases .4 acre in the Millstone Valley for \$30 per month as an extension to his back yard. Mrs. Nash moved approval of the lease extension, Mr. Pauley seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

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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

Scott A. Weiner  
Frank J. Torpey

Winona D. Nash  
Douglas H. Palmer

NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
James J. Florio, Governor Scott A. Weiner, Commissioner

## REVIEW ZONE PROJECTS

Mr. Amon presented one "A" Zone project:

91-1971 - Mercer Medical Center Addition, Trenton

Mr. Amon stated that the 4-story addition would not be visible from the Canal Park and that no new impervious surface would be created. He recommended approval. Mrs. Nash suggested that the Commission contact the Mercer Medical Center to make them more aware of the Canal Park. She moved approval of the project, Mr. Jones seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Dobbs stated that construction had started on a project in Hillsborough before receiving Canal Commission approval, and that a house had been built before detention basins were installed. Mr. Jessen recommended notifying the Soil Conservation District office to help in the enforcement of these matters. Mr. Dobbs then presented the following "B" Zone projects:

91-1974 - Linvale Dual Golf Courses, W. Amwell Twp., Hunterdon County,  
two 18-hole mini-golf courses plus a 2-story clubhouse on 28+ acres with 17% impervious coverage.

89-1843 - Cranbrook Corporate Park, Cranbury Twp., Middlesex County.  
8 office/warehouse buildings on 77+ acres with 44% impervious surface.

90-1855 - Green Field Villages, Montgomery Twp., Somerset County.  
43 single family houses on 58+ acres with 18% impervious coverage.

Mr. Dobbs reported that all of these projects were in compliance with the Commission's stormwater management regulations, and he recommended approval. In the case of Green Field Villages, stormwater management would be provided by the county regional basin for Dead Tree Run. Mr. Jessen questioned whether there would be a guarantee that the regional basin would be built; Mr. Dobbs stated that the Commission requires that temporary basins be installed until the regional basin is built. Mrs. Nash moved approval of the "B" Zone projects, Mr. Pauley seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

## DISCUSSION OF SCENIC ROADS PROJECT

Mr. Amon reviewed the Commission's work on establishing scenic road status for certain roads that run along the Canal Park. In Franklin Township, an ordinance was passed designating Canal Road a scenic road and that it be given special considerations. The Somerset County Planning Board prepared a document on the scenic qualities of River Road, but recommended straightening, flattening, and widening the road. A compromise plan has apparently been worked out between the Planning Department and concerned citizens. Mr. Amon stated that he had met with the Department of Transportation's landscape designer regarding scenic road status for Route 29. He also said that New Jersey Green Acres has published a booklet which establishes criteria for scenic roads in New Jersey.

Mr. Kirkland suggested that the continuation of the multi-use path from Frenchtown to Milford would enhance the scenic corridor. Discussion then ensued regarding the relation of scenic corridors to the proposed National Heritage Corridor.

Mrs. Thomsen asked about the status of the proposed bill to give the Department of Transportation full responsibility for the bridges that cross the canal. Mr. Kirkland asked Ms. Blasi as to when one law supersedes another. She replied that the legislative history of the bills must be researched, but that in this case, the legislation is clear, because it states "all laws notwithstanding". She offered to research the bill more carefully, with the eventual goal of possibly adding something to the legislative record. Mr. Marshall advised that Mr. Amon work together with Ms. Nancy Zerbe (Director of the Office of New Jersey Heritage), and that the DEPE's Director of Legislative Affairs be contacted. Mrs. Nash moved approval of a request from the Canal Commission to Ms. Blasi to research the bill. Mr. Jones seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Jones then moved to contact the proper DEPE authorities about the Canal Commission's concern regarding this bill, and to authorize Mr. Amon and Mr. Kirkland to take the necessary steps to ensure that the Commission's authority is not being eroded. Mrs. Nash seconded the motion. Mr. Kirkland, Jones, Marshall, Pauley, Torpey, and Mrs. Nash voted in favor of the motion; Mr. Jessen voted against. The motion passed.

DISCUSSION OF OTHER GROUPS WHOSE ACTIONS IMPROVE THE CANAL  
PARK

Mr. Amon distributed a descriptive list of non-profit organizations that have helped in improving the Canal Park. Mr. Torpey suggested using the list as a vehicle to notify legislators of the widespread support the Canal Park has.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Amon announced that the Griggstown Mule Tenders Barracks Museum was offering T-Shirts for sale.

CANAL PARK SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

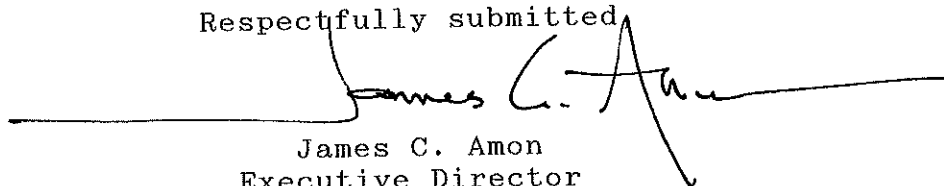
Mr. Stern reported that the last mowing for the season was being completed, that the Bull's Island campgrounds were being renovated, and that the main office was being painted.

PUBLIC FORUM

Ms. House asked several questions; with regard to the status of the proposed National Heritage Corridor, Mr. Amon said that the Commission had given recommendations to Congressman Zimmer's office, and was waiting for a reply. Mr. Chase noted Ms. House's remark that trees were growing in the lock wall in South Bound Brook and should be removed; Ms. House also said that the path near Bakers Basin was still overgrown (Mr. Stern replied that he would look into it). Regarding the question about whether the Commission had any input regarding the double outlet lock in New Brunswick, Mr. Amon replied that the Commission did not have jurisdiction over that part of the canal. Ms. House also asked about the status of Nassau Park; the Commission has not yet received a formal application, but expects one soon.

The meeting adjourned at 2:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James C. Amon", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and extends to the right.

James C. Amon  
Executive Director