

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 17 JUNE 1992

TIME: 12:20 PM - 2:10 PM
DATE: Wednesday, 17 June, 1992
PLACE: Van Wickle House
Somerset, NJ



DELAWARE AND RARITAN
CANAL COMMISSION

ATTENDING:

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

STAFF: Messrs. Amon and Dobbs; Ms. Holms
Ms. Helene Chudzik, Deputy Attorney General

GUESTS: Paul Stern, D & R Canal State Park
Joe Bird
Kay & Larry Pitt, Canal Society of NJ
A. Gregory Chase, NJ Water Supply Authority
Ursula Buchanan, D & R Canal Coalition
Bill Moss, Canal Society of NJ
Don Scott, Keller & Kirkpatrick
Rich Grochoski, Somerset County
Edward Buss, NJ Water Supply Authority
Edward O'Gunn, EBASCO
Don Kroeck, NJ Water Supply Authority
Eugene Gross, NJ Water Supply Authority
Robert White, Right of Way, NJ DOT

Mr. Jessen 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

There being no objections to the minutes of the meeting of 20 May 1992, Mr. Jessen declared them approved.

LEASES AND PERMITS

Mr. Amon presented an application for a lease renewal by Kate Roebling for a strip of land in Trenton near the Perdicaris waste gate to be used as a lawn for \$50/year. A new tenant in the 5-Mile Locktender's House is applying for a 1-year residential lease at a cost of \$230/month plus maintenance and upkeep. Mr. Zaikov moved approval of the two leases; 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 AND ENERGY
James J. Florio, Governor Scott A. Weiner, Commissioner

Mr. Amon then presented a permit application by the NJ Department of Transportation to the Division of Parks and Forestry; they are applying for 5 easements next to the canal in the Duck Island area for completion of I-295. The easements were inadvertently omitted from the original application for approval of the Trenton complex. One easement would be for crossing the canal, two for pipelines being re-routed, another for temporary access for the pipeline company, and a fifth for access to 2 small pieces of land totalling 100 square feet. Mrs. Nash moved approval of the permit for these easements, Mr. Torpey seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

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

REVIEW ZONE PROJECTS

Mr. Amon presented three "A" Zone projects for approval:

91-2019 - Lawrence Mold and Tool
Lawrence Township, Mercer County
building addition, no new impervious surface,
not visible from Canal Park.

92-2046 - Stark/Hinck Addition
Lambertville, Hunterdon County
deck and rear yard improvements

92-2047 - Parker Residence
Stockton, Hunterdon County
addition onto rear of house

According to Mr. Amon, the three projects listed above would not present any harmful visual impacts to the Canal Park, and he recommended approval. Mr. Torpey moved approval of the these "A" Zone projects; Mrs. Nash seconded the approval. Messrs. Jessen, Jones, Marshall, Torpey, and Mrs. Nash voted in favor of the motion, Mr. Pauley abstained, and the motion carried.

Mr. Amon then presented the following "A" Zone project for approval:

91-1975 - Blackwell's Mills Bridge over Millstone River;
Hillsborough and Franklin Twps., Somerset Cty.
replacement of existing bridge

Mr. Amon stated that the existing bridge is 24 feet wide; the proposed new bridge would be two 15-foot lanes plus a 5-foot-wide sidewalk which would be the same width as the canal bridge. The Somerset County Engineer has explicitly stated that there are no plans nor a perceived need to widen the causeway. Some remnant stone abutments and headwalls would be lost; tinted concrete would replace the stone walls. Two guide rails would allow motorists to see the river from the bridge. A former raceway presently enters a culvert under the road; the county will replace the metal culvert

with a concrete pipe and arch. Mr. Amon recommended approval. Mr. Pauley asked whether stonework facing on the abutments had been considered.

Mr. Scott replied that stone pointing requires ongoing maintenance and is more expensive than the maintenance-free tinted concrete.

Mrs. Buchanan asked whether it is safe to have a wider 2-lane bridge come into a narrow road. Mr. Scott replied that the bridge width was the minimum width that AASHTO required.

Mr. Chase asked whether the river hydraulics would be changed; Mr. Scott replied that there would be no change.

Mr. Torpey suggested that an interpretive sign with some historical information about the site be a condition of the approval. Mr. Scott said that this could be done, and suggested that the Commission provide a text. Mrs. Nash moved approval of the new Blackwell's Mills Bridge with the condition that an interpretive sign be installed; Mr. Pauley seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Mr. Dobbs presented five "B" Zone projects for approval:

- 89-1752 - Windmere
Hillsborough Township, Somerset County
35 single family houses on 89 acres with
11% impervious surface; a 100-foot stream
corridor buffer will be retained.
- 92-2038 - West Windsor Community Park Phase I
West Windsor Township, Mercer County
parking and playfields on 13 acres with 1.9 acres
of impervious coverage.
- 90-1883 - Executive Plaza
Hillsborough Township, Somerset County
office/hotel, bank, daycare and health center on
52+ acres with 57% impervious coverage; a 100-
foot stream corridor buffer will be retained.
- 90-1854 - Heritage Greens
Hillsborough Township, Somerset County
235 dwelling units on 74+ acres with 28% impervious
surface; 27 acres of open space plus a 100-foot
stream corridor buffer will be retained.
- 89-1836 - Harbourton Crossing
Hopewell Township, Mercer County
31 single family houses on 154 acres with 9%
impervious surface.

Mr. Dobbs stated that all of the applications met the Canal Commission's regulations and recommended approval. A discussion

then ensued about the reliability of regional basins. Mr. Amon suggested that a representative from Somerset County make a presentation about the status of the county's regional basins at July's meeting. Mr. Zaikov moved approval of the following projects: West Windsor Community Park Phase I, Executive Plaza, and Harbourton Crossing. Mrs. Nash seconded the approval, and it passed unanimously. Mr. Jones then moved approval of Heritage Greens; Mr. Pauley seconded the motion; Messrs. Jessen, Jones, Marshall, Torpey, and Mrs. Nash voted in favor of the motion, and Mr. Zaikov abstained. The motion passed.

WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY PROJECTS

Ms. Chudzik, Deputy Attorney General, announced that because she represented the Water Supply Authority she would not be able to advise the Commission on these projects.

A. Wickecheoke Bed Load Trap

Mr. Amon reviewed the current situation: after big storms, stones and silt moving down the Wickecheoke Creek get washed into the canal, and the Water Supply Authority must remove them every 2-3 years at great expense. The Authority proposes excavating a section of the creek to create a trap, and building a dam across the creek which will catch the stones, making it easier to remove them. The dam would be built two feet below the normal water level and would be made of concrete with a pebble aggregate surface. It would tie into existing retaining walls on both sides of the creek. The retaining wall on the west side of the creek would be reassembled and mortared. Waste gates at the spillway into the Delaware River would be replaced. The staging area would be in the parking lot next to the Prallsville sawmill.

Mr. Jessen asked how deep would the excavation be; Mr. Buss replied that would excavate six feet down. Mr. Jessen stated that he did not believe that a dam is necessary. He said that a bigger hole in the creek would accomplish the same thing. He suggested excavating first to see if that would work, before installing a dam. Mr. Torpey suggested waiting to approve the project until the project's engineers could respond to Mr. Jessen's questions and suggestions. After further discussion, Mr. Torpey moved to table the proposal; Mr. Zaikov seconded the motion, and it passed without dissent.

B. Moore's Creek Culvert Rehabilitation

A double-barrelled culvert, built in 1834, takes Moore's Creek under Route 29 and the canal. The culvert was expanded and extended in 1855, 1912, and 1917, with shotcrete added in 1973. The Water Supply Authority proposes to rehabilitate the culvert by installing new concrete with a new solid bed with a timber platform installed on top of existing timber planks, and requested approval for the schematic design. Mr. Zaikov moved approval of

the schematic design, Mrs. Nash seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

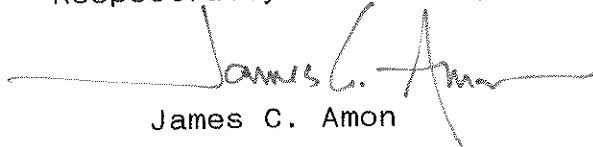
CANAL PARK SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Stern stated that the DOT has nearly completed the parking lot at the South Bound Brook. He said that a Clean Communities crew was picking up litter in Trenton, and that seasonal mowing was underway.

PUBLIC FORUM

Mrs. Buchanan expressed concern over the bad condition of the towpath between Griggstown and Blackwell's Mills. Mr. Chase said that he would look into and remedy any problems caused by the Water Supply Authority's equipment.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James C. Amon". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending to the left and right.

James C. Amon