

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 15 JULY 1992

TIME: 12:15 PM - 2:30 PM
DATE: Wednesday, 15 July 1992
PLACE: D & R Canal Commission
Prallsville Mills
Stockton, NJ



DELAWARE AND RARITAN
CANAL COMMISSION

ATTENDING:

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

STAFF: Messrs. Amon and Dobbs; Ms. Holms
Ms. Carol Blasi, Deputy Attorney General

GUESTS: Paul Stern, D & R Canal State Park
Joe Bird
Kay & Larry Pitt, Canal Society of NJ
Edward Buss, NJ Water Supply Authority
Ursula Buchanan, D & R Canal Coalition
Bill Moss, Canal Society of NJ
Abigail Barrows
Fred Brown, D & R Canal Watch
John Auciello, D&R Canal State Park
Joseph J. Skupien, Somerset County Eng. Dept.

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

Ms. Holms noted an omission on page 4 of the minutes of the meeting of 17 June 1992; the project called Windmere should have been listed with the other "B" Zone projects (West Windsor Community Park Phase I, Executive Plaza, Harbourton Crossing) as having received approval. With that change, Mr. Jessen moved approval of the minutes of the meeting of 17 June 1992, Mr. Pauley seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

PERMITS

Mr. Amon presented an application by the Lambertville Station Restaurant for a permit to build a pedestrian bridge across the canal. The restaurant is required to bring an 8" water main to the west side of the canal as a safety measure; the pipe would suspend from the bridge. The bridge would be six feet wide with wooden railings.

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EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR
James C. Amon

COMMISSIONERS
Benjamin B. Kirkland
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Vice-Chairman

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Treasurer

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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

DISCUSSION WITH SOMERSET COUNTY OFFICIALS ON REGIONAL BASIN PROGRAM

Mr. Skupien reviewed the status of the county's regional basin program. In the Royce Brook watershed, the regional basin "E" in Hillsborough Township is 60% complete. Several other regional basins built by developers have been completed. Another basin, called Site C, will also be built by developers, but is currently on hold while a wetlands permit exemption request is being reviewed.

Mr. Skupien explained that the County makes up the difference in the cost of building regional basins if developers' contributions aren't sufficient.

A general discussion ensued about the feasibility of obtaining statewide wetlands permits versus individual permits for regional basin construction.

Mr. Skupien said that the county has a basin maintenance staff that regularly mows the basins, removes silt, and cleans the trash racks of debris. The county also maintains onsite basins (those built by developers); the developer agrees to give the land to the county for the basins, and in exchange the county agrees to maintain these basins.

Mrs. Buchanan asked whether there was a way to make the detention basins appear more natural. Mr. Skupien replied that his department was in the process of rewriting a detention basin handbook and that new design features included wetland ponds for basins, which would support native wetland vegetation.

REVIEW OF WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY PROJECTS

A. Wickecheoke Bed Load Trap

Mr. Amon said that Mr. Jessen and he met with Water Supply Authority representatives and their consultants, and as a result of this meeting the Authority will excavate to bedrock instead of a fixed level upstream of the dam, and they will clear out material up to the Route 29 bridge which will enable the trap to last longer. The Water Supply Authority and their consultants convinced Mr. Jessen and Mr. Amon that the dam was a necessary element of this project. Mr. Jessen moved approval of the bed load trap, Mr. Torpey seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

B. Rehabilitation of Jacob's Creek Culvert

Mr. Amon said that Jacob's Creek flows under Route 29 and the canal and that the culvert was part of the original canal construction. He said that a concrete piece was added in 1914 to extend to the river, and concrete layers were added to the headwalls and wingwalls. The stone portion of the culvert is leaking and the concrete needs repair. The Water Supply Authority is proposing to spray shotcrete on the stone to seal it, plus repair the concrete.

The Historic Sites Council agreed that this method would be acceptable because of the cost and because it is unlikely that the interior of the culvert would be seen, and also because it has experienced some historic degradation already. Mr. Jessen moved approval of the Jacob's Creek culvert rehabilitation, Mrs. Nash seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

FINAL APPROVAL OF RECREATIONAL PATH IN LAMBERTVILLE AND TRENTON

Mr. Amon said that final approval of the path would be deferred until August's meeting, because of issues that still needed to be addressed. These issues include the type of surface material to be used in Trenton, fencing in Trenton, and bulkheading in Lambertville and Trenton.

Mr. Moss stated that he was still concerned about the proposed 8-foot width which would supplant the historic narrow path that is there now.

D&R CANAL BRIDGE SAFETY COMMISSION

Mr. Jessen moved the approval of Mr. Kirkland's appointment of Mr. Pauley as the Commission's representative to the D&R Canal Bridge Safety Commission. Mrs. Nash seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

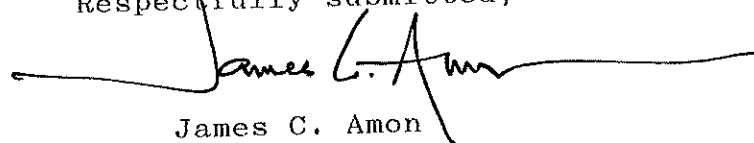
It was noted that the historic and cultural reports required for the Jacob's Creek Culvert Rehabilitation and other projects contained valuable information that is not readily available to the public, and it was suggested that the Canal Commission work toward locating suitable libraries that would make the reports available for loan.

Mr. Amon asked whether the Commissioners wished to change their policy on lunches as a result of a complaint; the Commissioners agreed to keep the same arrangement.

Mrs. Nash recommended requesting a report from the park rangers regarding the condition of the towpath. Mrs. Buchanan felt that the towpath between Blackwell's Mills and Griggstown was still dangerous because of potholes. Mr. Buss replied that the Water Supply Authority would be regrading that area soon.

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



James C. Amon