

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ^{19 August} ~~15 JULY~~ 1992

TIME: 12:15 PM - 2:30 PM
DATE: Wednesday, 19 August 1992
PLACE: D & R Canal Commission
Prallsville Mills
Stockton, NJ



DELAWARE AND RARITAN
CANAL COMMISSION

ATTENDING:

COMMISSIONERS: Messrs. Barker, Jessen, Jones, Kirkland,
Pauley, Zaikov, Mrs. Nash

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

GUESTS: John Auciello, D & R Canal State Park
Joe Bird
Kay & Larry Pitt, Canal Society of NJ
A. Gregory Chase, NJ Water Supply Authority
Bill Moss, Canal Society of NJ
Fred Brown, D & R Canal Watch
Bill McKelvey, Friends of NJ Railroad and
Transportation Museum
Henry Arnold, Arnold Associates
Jean Shaddon, City of Trenton Shade Tree
Bureau
John M. DeRiso, Brokaw DeRiso Assoc.
Marcia Taylor
Joel Schwartz, Heritage Estates
James Suto, Bridge Street Antiques

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. Pauley moved approval of the minutes of the meeting of 15 July 1992, Mr. Jessen seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Amon then introduced Mr. Richard Barker who has been designated to act as alternate for Gregory Marshall as a representative for DEPE Commissioner Scott Weiner. Mr. Barker is Assistant Director for the State Park Service.

REVIEW ZONE ACTIONS

Mr. Amon presented an "A" Zone project that he was recommending be waived; in Griggstown, applicants named Nash (no relation to

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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

Commissioner Nash) are proposing to build an addition onto the second floor of their house. It will not be visible from the Canal Park. Mrs. Nash moved waiving the Nash addition; Mr. Pauley seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

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

92-2055 - Church Street Housing, Trenton
16 duplex dwelling units

Mr. Amon stated that three of the houses will back up onto the railroad right-of-way that is now part of the Canal Park and is planned to become a recreational trail. There is a steep embankment between the property and the path site with some trees and shrubs serving as a screen. Mr. Amon recommended approval of the project with the condition that a fence be installed on the property line to prevent confusion over the boundary between private and public property. Mrs. Nash recommended that no gates be installed, to discourage dumping. Mr. Auciello, Chief Ranger, supported the recommendation for a fence. Mrs. Nash moved approval of the Church Street Housing project subject to the developer submitting a detail of a fence to be installed with height and type of construction noted; if time allowed, the Commission would review this detail--if not, the Commission would give Mr. Amon the authority to review and approve the fencing plans. Mr. Jones seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

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

92-2045 - Lore Elementary School Additions
Ewing Township, Mercer County
building addition and new parking on 30+ acres and
11% impervious surface.

92-2053 - One Mile Village
East Windsor Township, Mercer County
38 single family houses on 15+ acres with 27%
impervious coverage.

Mr. Dobbs stated that the two applications met the Canal Commission's regulations and recommended approval. Mr. Zaikov moved approval of the two projects; Mrs. Nash seconded the approval, and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Dobbs then reviewed an application for a waiver from compliance with the Commission's Stream Corridor Regulations. The applicant for the project known as Heritage Estates in Hillsborough Township is proposing to use two small sections of designated stream corridor buffer for backyard use. Mitigation would consist of 21 acres that would remain open under a conservation easement (most of which are wetlands). Mrs. Nash asked who would be holding the easement; Mr. Amon replied that the Canal Commission may--it has not yet been decided. Mr. Jessen moved waiving strict compliance

with the Stream Corridor Regulations in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 7:45-11.4. Mrs. Nash seconded the motion; Mr. Barker, Mr. Jessen, Mr. Jones, Mr. Kirkland, Mr. Pauley, and Mrs. Nash voted in favor of the motion. Mr. Zaikov abstained. The motion passed.

REVIEW OF FINAL PLANS FOR PATH IN TRENTON AND LAMBERTVILLE

Mr. Arnold, Landscape Architect for the path project, presented plans for the path in Trenton and Lambertville. He stated that the proposed Federal funding will not cover the entire budget, therefore several sections have add-alternate plans, plus some problematic sections will be omitted from the present plans. According to Mr. Amon, the omissions will not significantly impact the continuity of the path. Mr. Arnold described in detail the location and characteristics of the new path to be installed, and how it would link up with the present path.

Mr. Suta objected to the section of park behind his property that would be changed from a parking area to an area with grass and trees; he felt that the area would become a hangout and add a greater risk of burglary to the businesses on Bridge Street. It would also prevent him from parking his cars there. Mr. Amon suggested leaving a 10-foot lane for car parking, and landscaping the remaining area next to the path. Mr. Jones moved approval to accommodate both park use and private use for parking in this section of the path plans, authorizing Mr. Amon to represent the Commission in working out a final design with the consultant. Mr. Jessen seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. McKelvey expressed concern about the temporary path link which would require crossing the railroad, which he felt is dangerous. He recommended that brush be cleared for better visibility.

He also suggested that in places where the path was too narrow that a cantilevered path design be used instead of bulkheading, which would encroach upon the canal. Mr. Amon replied that the bulkheading would start from the water's edge and would not encroach.

Mr. Jessen moved approval of the final plans for the Lambertville path; Mr. Zaikov seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Arnold then reviewed the plans for the Trenton section of the path. He stated that the chainlink fence that currently starts at Sullivan Way would be removed, as an add-alternate plan. Another add-alternate would be the installation of bituminous surface for part of the path so that broken glass could be removed more easily.

Mr. Zaikov left the meeting at 1:45 PM.

Ms. Shaddon felt that there were too many exotic tree species in the plans, and not enough variety of native species. She also felt that species that attract wildlife, such as shadblow, viburnum,

black willow, and black locust could be used. She stated that Bloodgold was sterile, and would serve no purpose at all for wildlife. Mr. Arnold replied that there was already a diversity of species in the Canal Park.

Mrs. Nash asked why the path stopped at Warren Street. Mr. Amon replied that the City of Trenton had funds to continue the path from Warren to Old Rose Street, and was beginning to design this section.

Mr. Jessen moved approval of the final plans for the path in Trenton; Mrs. Nash seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

CANAL PARK SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Ranger Auciello said that a mountain bike was now available to the rangers for patrolling. He said that there was still investigation going on about the car break-ins that were taking place in Canal Park parking lots. He said that picnic tables were installed at South Bound Brook, and that new parking and tables were now at Plainsboro.

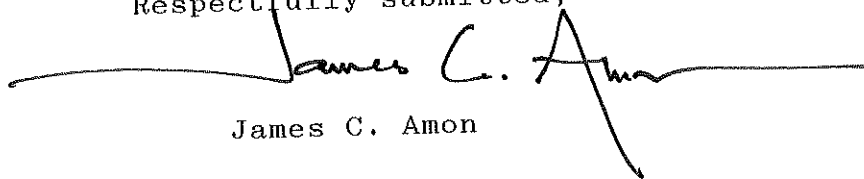
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Amon announced that a celebration for the designation of the Canal Park as a National Recreation Trail would be held in Stockton on September 16th at 2:30 PM (the same date as the regular Commission meeting).

PUBLIC FORUM

Mr. Pauley commented on the great job that the Parks' interpretive specialists have done with displays at the Griggstown Barracks.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James C. Amon", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

James C. Amon