

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MAY 19, 1993

TIME: 12:05 PM to 2:40 PM
DATE: Wednesday, May 19, 1993
PLACE: Canal Commission Office
Prallsville Mills, Stockton, NJ



DELAWARE AND RARITAN
CANAL COMMISSION

ATTENDING:

COMMISSIONERS: Messrs. Barker, Jessen, Jones, Kirkland, Pauley; Mrs. Nash, Ms. Shaddow (representative for Mayor Palmer)

STAFF: Mr. Amon, Mr. Dobbs, Ms. Holms
Ms. Carol Blasi, Deputy Attorney General

GUESTS: Paul Stern, D&R Canal State Park
A. Gregory Chase, NJ Water Supply Authority
Kay & Larry Pitt, Canal Society of New Jersey
Joe Bird
Kay & Larry Pitt, Canal Society of NJ
Ursula Buchanan, D&R Canal Coalition

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 the approval of the minutes of April 21; Mrs. Nash seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Mr. Jones then moved approval of the minutes of the Executive Session of April 21; Mrs. Nash seconded the motion and it too passed unanimously.

REVIEW ZONE ACTIONS

Mr. Amon presented five "A" Zone project applications for approval:

- 93-2092 - Mercer Switching Station - Hamilton Township.
Wire crossings of the canal in two locations plus two 100-foot-tall towers to be placed approximately 300 feet from the canal. The crossings require easements from the Division of Parks and Forestry.
- 93-2104 - Wolock Residence - Lambertville.
Construction of deck on rear of house.

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EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR
James C. Amon

COMMISSIONERS
Benjamin B. Kirkland
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Martin D. Jessen
Vice-Chairman

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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

- 89-1767 - Barrood Office Building - Franklin Twp., Somerset County.
2-story office building on 1.1 acres with 44% impervious surface. A landscape screen proposed for the front of the building will improve the visual impact on the Canal Park.
- 92-2033 - Delaware-Raritan Girl Scout Addition - Franklin Twp., Somerset County.
Addition of camp washroom onto existing building, 200+ feet from the Canal Park, screened by existing trees.
- 93-2102 - Delaware-Raritan Girl Scout Drainage - Franklin Twp., Somerset County.
Proposal to collect stormwater runoff in a catch basin and pipe it to a settling pond that empties into the canal; this will improve the drainage impact of the site on the Canal Park.

Mr. Amon recommended approval of the five "A" Zone projects. Mr. Pauley asked about potential electro-magnetic radiation problems with regard to the PSE&G wire crossings; Mr. Amon stated that to his knowledge there is no evidence yet that either proves or disproves that this presents health problems. Mr. Pauley moved approval of the five "A" Zone projects; Mrs. Nash seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Amon then presented three "A" Zone project applications for waiver:

1. Lick Residence Deck - Franklin Twp., Somerset County.
2. Wright Residence Addition - Hopewell Township.
3. Hilton Hotel Sign - Franklin Twp., Somerset County.

In all three cases, Mr. Amon said that they are not visible from the Canal Park and do not have any other kind of impact on the park. He recommended the Commission waive review requirements. Mr. Jessen moved waiving review requirements of the above three "A" Zone projects; Mr. Pauley seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Mrs. Buchanan asked whether the Commission could do anything about badly-planned development along the bluffs on Canal Road in the Griggstown area. Mr. Amon said that there was no other feasible location for the driveway for the houses that Mrs. Buchanan was referring to, and that the visual impact of one recent house's three stories was not within the Commission's jurisdiction because it could not be seen above the tree canopy while standing on the towpath. Mrs. Buchanan felt that the driveway leading to the house should have been more narrow, so that fewer trees would have been taken down.

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

- 91-1960 - Towne Centre Phase I - Hillsborough Twp.
Fifteen 3-story condominium buildings totaling 24,170 sq. ft. plus parking on 4+ acres with 34% impervious surface.
- 92-2059 - DaNave Development - Hillsborough Township.
11 single family houses on 6+ acres with 29% impervious coverage.

Mr. Dobbs stated that Commission requirements for stormwater management and water quality had been met for both projects and recommended approval. Mr. Jessen moved approval of the "B" Zone applications, Mr. Pauley seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

REVIEW OF STATUS OF ON-GOING PROJECTS IN THE CANAL PARK

Mr. Amon discussed the status of twenty projects in the Canal Park:

1. Bull's Island - Repair of Wing Dam; the repair should be finished before winter.
2. Prallsville Mills - Saw Mill Stabilization; completed last fall. Interpretive program; Mill Society members are working on self-guided interpretive displays of the mills.
3. Lambertville Path Construction; although delayed by bureaucratic red tape, construction should start within several months.
4. Route 29 Scenic Road Designation; in progress, with hope that there will be federal funding for scenic easements.
5. Delaware River Wild and Scenic River Designation - the bill that sponsored a study of the designation passed, but without reference to any study of Delaware River tributaries located in New Jersey.
6. Jacob's Creek & Scudder's Falls Overbank Spillways - should be finished soon.
7. Trenton Path Construction - will begin soon.
8. Trenton Canal Banks Study Project; the City has funds for plans and implementation of improving a section of the canal and neighboring community; continuation of the path from the Battle Monument to Old Rose Street is a key design element.
9. Hamilton - Mercer County Incinerator; DEPE permitting has delayed this project. Trenton Complex (Routes 195, 295, and 129) - currently under construction, scheduled for completion by December 1994.
10. Bordentown - Outlet Locks Interpretation; Mr. Amon and representatives of DOT have met to discuss an interpretive display at the pull-off near Lock One.

Mr. Pauley interrupted the project review in order to discuss two issues before he would be required to leave the meeting. He told

the Commission that the D&R Canal Bridge Safety Study Commission has met twice and toured several bridges. He said that DOT is funding a study about wooden guide rails.

Mr. Amon brought up the Port Mercer bridge issue, saying that the Wal-Mart application may be on the June agenda. He said that Mercer County is still supporting the extension of Canal Pointe Boulevard, although construction of the extension would not happen for several years. He also felt that the newly-elected council of West Windsor would, like its predecessor, oppose the extension.

Mr. Pauley then presented another alternate plan, in which the bridge at Port Mercer would be closed to vehicular traffic, a second bridge would be built to connect to Provinceline Road, and a third bridge would be built between those bridges, attached to a new road that would go through the proposed Yorkshire Village. Mrs. Nash did not think that Lawrence would accept this new concept, and that it would not be feasible because the road through Yorkshire Village would be traversing wetlands.

Mr. Jessen said that he felt the best solution was to build a third turning lane on the second bridge, with a stop light or cloverleaf (one loop). He said that the Commission should have several alternate designs from which to choose. Mr. Amon felt that this was not a good solution. It was agreed that Mr. Amon show Lawrence Township's development director the new plan for his opinion. After further discussion about the possible alternatives, discussion about projects in the Canal Park resumed.

11. Carnegie Road Canal House Restoration - a holding tank installation and structural repairs will begin soon.
12. Alexander Road Pedestrian Bridge over Stony Brook - under construction at present.
13. Princeton Township - Institute for Advanced Study Land - negotiations between Green Acres, D&R Greenway, and the Institute are continuing toward preservation of the Institute's woods and farm fields in Princeton Township.
14. Kingston Canoe Rental - the present tenant of the Kingston Locktender's house stopped paying rent and canoe concession rental, and will be evicted through court order. Path to Cook Natural Area - a path connecting land surrounding Heathcote Brook to the Canal Park will be constructed, through an easement donated by Princeton University. Flemer Preserve - under management by the Natural Lands Trust, planned improvements have still not been accomplished.
15. Rocky Hill - Trap Rock Project; construction has begun.
16. Weston Canal House Restoration - underway shortly.
17. Zarephath Canal House Restoration - underway shortly.
18. Ten-Mile Lock - Elizabethtown Water Company Bridge - the water company has agreed to take down a small pump house that currently blocks the towpath, and rebuild a pedestrian bridge across the canal; construction will begin within one month.

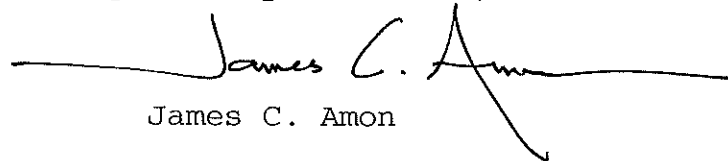
19. South Bound Brook to New Brunswick - Tow Path Restoration; to be done by the NJ Water Supply Authority.
20. New Brunswick Outlet Lock Restoration - DOT and New Brunswick are now working toward restoration of the lock and development of Boyd Park; the Canal Society of New Jersey is offering their expertise for interpretation.

DISCUSSION OF VOLUNTEERS AND THE CANAL PARK

Mr. Stern told the Commissioners the Canal Park often uses volunteers to help with maintaining and improving the park, but that the operations are usually one-day events, as opposed to a regular on-going program. He said that in order to have on-going volunteer programs, a full-time staffer would be needed to administrate the program.

The meeting adjourned at 2:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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

James C. Amon