

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF NOVEMBER 17, 1993

TIME: 12:20 PM to 1:45 PM
DATE: Wednesday, November 17, 1993
PLACE: Griggstown Muletenders' Barracks
Griggstown, NJ



ATTENDING:

COMMISSIONERS: Messrs. Barker, Jessen, Jones, Pauley, Zaikov

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
Bill Moss, Canal Society of New Jersey
Ursula Buchanan, D&R Canal Coalition
Caroline Swartz, D&R Canal Transportation
Safety Study Commission
Stephen Pacifico, Ranger Trainee
Paul Varga, Ranger Trainee
Lawrence Tarantino, AIA, Millstone
Gerald Hoaglin, NJ Water Supply Authority
Fred Brown, D&R Canal Watch
Sue Rightmire, Griggstown Historical Society
Robert von Zumbusch

PRESENTATION BY CAROLINE SWARTZ, CHAIR, DELAWARE AND RARITAN CANAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY COMMISSION

Ms. Swartz discussed how the safety commission was formed and what it has been mandated to consider, including jurisdiction of canal bridges, the condition of guardrails, etc., along the canal, cost of their construction and maintenance, and maintaining the historic and aesthetic integrity of the canal. The Safety Commission has focused on bridge safety but has taken a broad interpretation of the legislation and has considered other safety hazards as well. Ms. Swartz said that the Commission has researched accident reports, considered liability issues, and looked at the concerns of the Historic Sites Council, in addition to other issues. She said they are carefully considering the FHWA-endorsed steel-backed timber guide rails that are presently used in national parks. According to Ms. Swartz, NJ DOT has received federal funding to conduct a timber bridge study which would include studying timber rails on bridges and their approaches.

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

Mr. Amon asked whether the Commission would be able to satisfactorily resolve the conflict between safety and aesthetics. Ms. Swartz replied that she was hopeful that the Commission would eventually produce a report that was evenly balanced.

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

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

Mr. Jones moved the approval of the minutes of October 20th; Mr. Pauley seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

LEASES AND PERMITS

Mr. Amon presented one lease application from the Lambertville Power Boat Association. The association would lease State land that fronts on the Delaware River for a fee of \$8,000 per year. It maintains a clubhouse, road and parking lots, plus an unrestricted boat ramp. Mr. Zaikov moved approval of the lease, Mr. Jones seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

REVIEW ZONE ACTIONS

Mr. Amon presented one "A" Zone project application for waiver from review:

Louise Regan Property - Lambertville; proposal to add porch in the rear of the property.

Mr. Amon stated that the proposed porch was not visible from the Canal Park and recommended waiving the project from review. Mr. Zaikov moved waiving review requirements from the project; Mr. Pauley seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

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

89-1730A - Willow Hill Square - South Brunswick Twp.;
52 houses on 44 acres with 12% impervious coverage;
20 acres of open space.

92-2067 - Keepsake Farms - Millstone Twp., Monmouth County;
20 houses on 73+ acres with 7% impervious coverage.

93-2112 - Millstone Elementary School - Millstone Twp.,
Monmouth County;
1-story building plus parking on 43 acres with total
of 16% impervious surface.

93-2116 - Pine Run - Monroe Township, Middlesex County;
92 houses on 22+ acres with 57% impervious surface.

93-2117 - Clearbrook Commons Phase I - Monroe Twp., Middlesex
County;
241 retirement units on 63+ acres with 46%
impervious coverage; 54% open space.

Mr. Dobbs stated that Commission requirements for stormwater management and water quality had been met for all five projects and recommended approval. Mr. Zaikov moved approval of the five "B" Zone projects; Mr. Pauley seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Jessen expressed his appreciation on behalf of the Commission to Mrs. Rightmire and the Griggstown Historical Society for the use of the Muletenders' Barracks.

PROPOSED LAND SWAP IN TRENTON

Mr. Amon said that the Division of Parks and Forestry is proposing to swap approximately one acre of land that adjoins the abandoned portion of the canal and the Roebling complex for 2 pieces of land that total over one-half acre, next to the park where Hermitage Avenue crosses the canal. He stated that in 1986 the Commission recommended acquiring this land but the City of Trenton was not interested in selling it. He also said that some amount of money will be a part of the final negotiations once the appraisals are completed. Mr. Amon said that these currently vacant properties would be useful as staging areas, would be landscaped, and would give the area a more park-like setting.

Mr. von Zumbusch asked whether the extra money would go into the General Treasury. Mr. Barker replied that it would go into the land acquisition fund. Mr. Jones moved approval of the land swap; Mr. Barker seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Amon announced that the Canal Society of New Jersey will celebrate its 25th anniversary with an event that will feature various types of water crafts that have historically used the canal. The celebration will be held in the Canal Park and Colonial Park, and the Society has asked the Canal Commission to co-sponsor the event. Mr. Zaikov moved endorsing the celebration; Mr. Pauley seconded the motion. Messrs. Barker, Jessen, Pauley and Zaikov voted in favor of the motion. Mr. Jones abstained.

CANAL SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Stern introduced two ranger trainees, Paul Varga and Steve Pacifico. He also announced that a new employee, Kurt Reichert, will be working in the maintenance department. He stated that construction of the Bull's Island maintenance building would start soon. He also spoke of an oil discharge that occurred near West Hanover, plus two mishaps involving cars that went into the canal--one an accident (no injuries), and one an apparent suicide.

The meeting adjourned at 1:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



James C. Amon