

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MAY 18, 1994

TIME: 12:15 PM to 1:45 PM
DATE: Wednesday, May 18, 1994
PLACE: Canal Commission Office
Prallsville Mills, Stockton, NJ



DELAWARE AND RARITAN
CANAL COMMISSION

ATTENDING:

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

STAFF: Mr. Amon, Ms. Holms

GUESTS: Paul Stern, D&R Canal State Park
Kay & Larry Pitt, Canal Society of New Jersey
Joe Bird
Fred Brown, D&R Canal Watch
Bill Moss, Canal Society of New Jersey
Gregg Chase, NJ Water Supply Authority
Captain Bill McKelvey, Canal Society of NJ
Bruce McNaught, Bucks County Audubon Society
Frances McCarthy, Lawrence Historical Society
Denise Hall, Lawrence Historical Society
Gordon Keith, Port Mercer Civic Association

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. Jessen moved approval of the minutes of April 20, Mrs. Nash seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. Mrs. Nash then moved approval of the Executive Session minutes of March 16 with the correction of the date which was erroneously noted as March 17. Mr. Jessen seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Mr. Zaikov moved approval of the Executive Session minutes of April 20; Mrs. Nash seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

REVIEW ZONE ACTIONS

Mr. Amon presented one "B" Zone application for approval:

94-2155 Pennington Office Park - Hopewell Township
2-story office building plus parking on 3+ acres
with 33% impervious surface.

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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	Robert C. Shinn, Jr. Frank J. Torpey	Winona D. Nash Douglas H. Palmer
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NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND ENERGY
Christine Todd Whitman, Governor Robert C. Shinn, Jr. Commissioner

He then presented two "A" Zone applications for approval:

- 94-2154 - Weston Canal Road Widening - Franklin Twp.,
Somerset County;
addition of a left turn lane to Weston Canal Road
- 94-2161 - Reed Residence - Hopewell Township;
addition to existing house

Mr. Amon stated that Mr. Dobbs had reviewed the proposed stormwater management for the Pennington Office Park and found it to be satisfactory. He said that the Weston Canal Road Widening would constitute less than 10,000 square feet of new impervious surface and thus would not require review and approval of Canal Commission stormwater management standards.

Mr. Amon said that the Reed residence was an historic house in the Titusville Historic District and the addition would be complementary to the existing architecture. He also said that a very dense vegetative screen presently exists between the house and the Canal Park. He recommended approval of both "A" and "B" zone applications. Mr. Zaikov moved approval of the review zone applications, Mr. Pauley seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Amon then presented a request for waiver from review. The Jonas Realty Corporation is proposing to erect a 28'-high sign on Easton Avenue. Although the sign would be in the Commission's "A" Zone, it will not be visible from the Canal Park, and Mr. Amon recommended that the Commission waive the application from review requirements. Mr. Zaikov moved waiving the Jonas Realty sign from review, Mr. Jessen seconded the motion, and it passed without dissent.

DIVISION OF PARKS AND FORESTRY PROJECTS:

A. KINGSTON LOCKTENDER'S STATION

Mr. Amon reported that the Division of Parks and Forestry is proposing to repair the Kingston Locktender's Station. Such repair would include replacing the windows and door, repairing the wood shingle roof, re-grading and seeding, and replacing damaged clapboard. Mr. Stern said that he hoped to involve the New Jersey Youth Corps. He said that its planned use would be for storage. Mr. Jessen asked whether a plaque could be installed nearby, describing the station's history. Mr. Stern replied that the structure could be used as a small interpretive center. Mr. Jessen moved approval of the repair, Mrs. Nash seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

B. TREE WORK ON BULL'S ISLAND

Mr. Amon stated that 171 trees on the western side of the campgrounds on Bull's Island were slated to be removed because they were diseased and/or damaged, and were potentially dangerous to campers.

Mr. Brown of D&R Canal Watch said that he looked at the campgrounds and felt that the marked trees were indeed mostly diseased.

Mr. McNaught of the Bucks County Audubon Society said that Bull's Island was one of the most important areas in the state for neotropical migrating birds, and suggested that an ornithologist work with the Division of Parks and Forestry to determine which trees should be removed. He also suggested that the tree removal take place after the nesting season.

Mr. Kirkland suggested that the trees could be replaced with other native species.

Mr. Stern said that it was important that the work be done before July 1 because campers had already made reservations to camp at that time. He said that 400 campers and fishermen use Bull's Island daily. He clarified that 180-190 trees should be removed for safety reasons and that most of the trees were box elders. He said the noise would not be great and that the job could be done in 16 days. He said that several vehicles had been damaged in the past by falling limbs.

Mr. Zaikov moved approval of the removal of the trees on Bull's Island that were marked by Mr. Stern, with the suggestion of Jean Shaddow that she work with Canal Watch to try to get a grant that would fund replanting understory trees of a species and in locations jointly agreed upon by Mr. Stern and Mr. Amon. Mr. Jessen seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION OF PORT MERCER HISTORY BY GORDON KEITH AND TRIBUTE TO FRANCES MCCARTHY AND DENISE HALL

Mr. Keith gave a short history of Port Mercer, emphasizing the influence of the D&R Canal on the village. He spoke of the Port Mercer Canal House, and how it came to be restored, largely through the efforts of Frances McCarthy and Denise Hall.

Mr. Amon reviewed the past work of Mrs. McCarthy and Mrs. Hall, saying that without their vision, the Port Mercer Canal House and the Lawrence Historical Society would not be what they are today. He announced that they were moving to Nantucket, and would be very much missed. Mr. Kirkland presented them with certificates that acknowledge their contributions. Mrs. McCarthy said that she appreciated the recognition but said that another Lawrence Historical Society member, Dot Bayliss, also deserves recognition.

She thanked the Commissioners and Mr. Amon for the continued good stewardship of the Canal Park.

CANAL PARK SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Stern said that his staff was putting a lot of effort toward the maintenance of Bull's Island. He said that the new path construction was going well, with some encroachment problems. He reported that the Water Supply Authority was patching holes along the towpath and continuing to refurbish the Kingston Locktender's House. He also said that the "Carry In-Carry Out" trash policy was helping to streamline the regular cleanup activities of the Canal Park.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Amon relinquished the floor to Mr. McKelvey, who announced that the Canal Society of New Jersey was celebrating their 25th anniversary with a festival on May 29th (rain date May 30th) in Colonial Park. He said that about 15 boats including a whaling boat would be available, and 45 non-profit groups would have display tables.

The meeting adjourned at 1:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,


James C. Amon