

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF NOVEMBER 15, 1995

TIME: 12:15 PM to 2:05 PM
DATE: Wednesday, November 15, 1995
PLACE: Canal Commission Office
Stockton, New Jersey



DELAWARE AND RARITAN
CANAL COMMISSION

ATTENDING:

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

STAFF: Mr. Amon, Ms. Holms
Mr. Lewin Weyl, Deputy Attorney General

GUESTS: Kay & Larry Pitt, Canal Society of New Jersey
Ed Buss, NJ Water Supply Authority
Fred Brown, D&R Canal Watch
Paul Stern, D&R Canal State Park
Linda House, Canal Society of New Jersey
Robert von Zumbusch
Bill McKelvey, Friends of NJRR & Transportation
Museum

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 October 18th;
Mr. Torpey seconded the motion and it passed without dissent.

LEASES AND PERMITS

Mr. Amon presented one permit application required by the Division of Parks and Forestry. The Elizabethtown Water Company wishes to install an eighty-foot pipeline in Franklin Township near South Bound Brook between the canal and Weston Canal Road, south of the Route 287 intersection. Elizabethtown would require a 20-foot-wide construction easement which would allow them to cut existing trees to install the pipeline, and a 10-foot-wide permanent easement for the actual placement of the pipeline. Mr. Amon recommended that the water company replant a variety of 10 specimens of native understory trees and shrubs. He said that although the permit was

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| EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR James C. Amon | COMMISSIONERS Benjamin B. Kirkland Chairman | Martin D. Jessen Vice-Chairman | Winona D. Nash Treasurer | Stuart R. Zaikov R. William Pauley | Robert C. Shinn, Jr. Frank J. Torpey | Douglas H. Palmer Marfy Goodspeed |
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NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
Christine Todd Whitman, Governor Robert C. Shinn, Jr. Commissioner

not in its final form, the water company was anxious to begin work, and recommended the Commission approve his signing the permit once it is executed. Mrs. Nash moved approval of Mr. Amon's signing the permit for the two pipeline easements; Mr. Torpey seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

REVIEW ZONE PROJECTS

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

86-1042A - Boston Chicken Restaurant - Franklin Twp., Somerset County; proposal to demolish existing restaurant and gas station and replace it with a new restaurant.

Mr. Amon said that there is no new impervious surface being proposed and is therefore subject to review for visual impact only. He said that the new restaurant would be an improvement over what is currently there. Mr. von Zumbusch suggested that street trees be planted if feasible. Mr. Amon said he could find out if this could be possible. Mrs. Nash moved approval of the application with the understanding that street trees be planted if possible. Mr. Pauley seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

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

95-2240 - Orchard Road and Burnt Hill Road Schools
Montgomery Township

Mr. Amon said that a temporary detention basin will be constructed to be replaced by a permanent swale. He said that Ms. Adapon was satisfied that both basin and swale met stormwater runoff and water quality requirements. Mr. Pauley moved approval of the "B" Zone application; Mrs. Nash seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Amon then recommended three applications to be waived from review and approval:

1. Lambertville Cafe - Lambertville
2. Walker Home Addition - Lambertville
3. FMC Corporation Driveway - Plainsboro Township

He said that with regard to the Lambertville applications, both are in the "A" Zone, but could not be seen from the Canal Park. The FMC Corporation driveway is located in the "B" Zone; the construction will create 1.09 acre of new impervious surface. Runoff will enter a detention basin and then discharge to wetlands. Mr. Amon and Ms. Adapon agreed that the small amount of new impervious surface (.09 acre over the Commission's limit) and the existing stormwater management system warranted a recommendation of waiver from full review and approval. Mr. Jessen moved waiving all

three projects; Mrs. Nash seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION OF PUBLIC COMMENT ON DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Mr. Amon said that the majority of public comments heard at the two public meetings held in Princeton and Stockton were for the most part comments on use of the Canal Park rather than development of the park.

Mr. Kirkland spoke of the concerns that Hunterdon County horseback riders expressed, and asked whether a new surface on the present path could be developed that would accommodate horseback riders.

Mr. Stern said that the current path consisted of a layer of ballast stone covered by a thin veneer of stone dust installed by a paver, and that the cost to repave the veneer is \$23,000 per mile. He said that reconstructing a new surface would be even more cost prohibitive, perhaps as much as \$100,000 per mile. He also said that after the path was initially constructed, the Division allowed horseback-riding for six months, but that the path condition deteriorated as a result.

After more discussion about allowing horses on the multi-use path, Mr. Amon said that although the Canal Commission cannot change current park rules, they could work with the Division of Parks and Forestry and the Water Supply Authority to develop a new surface, but that this seemed impractical.

Mr. Amon then said that as a result of both verbal and written comments, there would be no major alteration to the draft Development Plan, but rather he would incorporate minor corrections and addendum. He said he would present the final version to the Commission at December's meeting for recommendation of adoption.

DISCUSSION OF ISSUES RELATING TO A CANAL BOAT RIDE

Mr. Kirkland opened the discussion by stating that Mr. Torpey was concerned about a memo from Mr. Amon about a canal boat ride sent to the Commissioners and copied to the Division of Parks and Forestry and the New Jersey Water Supply Authority. Mr. Torpey said that he would prefer that Canal Commission correspondence be distributed to other agencies instead of opinions by the Executive Director. With regard to the memo's subject matter, the question as to whether the Commission advocates a canal boat ride was presented, with the consensus being affirmative. Mr. Amon stated the Water Supply Authority's concerns, and said that if these concerns can be met, the Authority would support a boat ride. Mr. Buss concurred.

Mr. Jessen presented three types of boat rides that might be feasible; the Commissioners discussed boat types and locations.

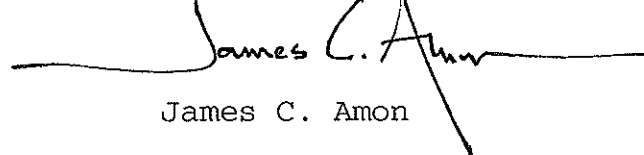
Mr. Marshall reminded the Commission that Mr. Stern's concerns must be met as well, including whether the ride would be economically feasible, as well as security, parking, insurance, and ADA requirements. Ms. House suggested that interested parties should meet with the ultimate goal of drawing up one or more Requests for Proposal.

CANAL PARK SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Stern reported that two events occurred last month--the Somerset County Horse and Pony Association ride, and a Crop Walk for Hunger. He said that the maintenance staff was in the process of winterizing park buildings. He also mentioned that the non-profit group "Isles, Inc." was moving out of the canal house on Calhoun Street in Trenton.

The meeting adjourned at 2:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James C. Amon". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

James C. Amon