

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF OCTOBER 16, 1996

TIME: 12:10 P.M. - 1:55 P.M.
DATE: Wednesday, October 16, 1996
PLACE: Canal Commission Office
Stockton, New Jersey



DELAWARE AND RARITAN
CANAL COMMISSION

ATTENDING:

COMMISSIONERS: Messrs. Barker, Herzog, Jessen, Kirkland, Pauley, Torpey;
Mrs. Nash and Ms. Shaddow (representative for Mayor Palmer)
STAFF: Mr. Amon and Ms. Holms
Ms. Valerie Gray, Deputy Attorney General
GUESTS: Kay & Larry Pitt, Canal Society of New Jersey
Linda J. House, Canal Society of New Jersey
Paul Stern, D&R Canal State Park
Bob Miller, Surrey Chase
Kevin Moore, Jamieson, Moore, Peskin & Spicer
Paul Fisk, Fisk Associates
Marelee Herzog
Gerry Sellner, NJ Dept. of Transportation
Robert von Zumbusch
Christopher Howard, Lichtenstein
William Pyontek, Lichtenstein

Mr. Torpey 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

Mrs. Nash moved the approval of the minutes of the meeting of September 16, 1996; Mr. Kirkland seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

REVIEW ZONE ACTIONS

Mr. Amon presented five review zone applications:

"A" Zone:

1. 96-2310 - Mercatanti Residence Addition - Franklin Township, Somerset County

PRALLSVILLE MILLS P.O. BOX 539 STOCKTON, NJ 08559-0539 609-397-2000 FAX: 609-397-1081

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

Mr. Amon said that the existing house is approximately 200 feet from the canal on Canal Road, and that the addition would not create a harmful visual impact. He recommended approval. Mr. Herzog moved approval of the Mercatanti application; Mr. Kirkland seconded the approval and it passed unanimously.

"B" Zone:

2. 96-2286 - Monmouth Junction #2 Firehouse - South Brunswick Township

Mr. Amon stated that this was an application for a firehouse on 6.46 acres with one detention basin to manage stormwater runoff and water quality, and that according to the review zone officer, the project met the Commission's standards. Mrs. Nash moved approval of the Firehouse; Mr. Pauley seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

3. 96-2293 - Warehouse for Champion Partners - Monroe Township

Mr. Amon said that the project contained a stream corridor, but that the stream had been channelized 25 years ago, and presently functioned as a drainage ditch. A proposed warehouse covering approximately 8 acres will use an existing regional detention basin for flood control and a new basin for water quality management. He recommended that the project be waived from strict compliance of the stream corridor impact regulation, and approved for compliance with stormwater management and water quality. Mr. Kirkland moved waiver from strict compliance of the stream corridor impact regulation and approval; Mrs. Nash seconded the motion. Messrs. Barker, Jessen, Kirkland, Pauley, Torpey, and Mrs. Nash voted in favor of the motion; Mr. Herzog abstained. The motion passed.

4. 96-1519A - Beacon of Lawrenceville - Lawrence Township

The project was determined in 1988 to be exempt from review because it had fewer than 25 housing units, the threshold for residential projects in the B Zone at that time. Subsequently it received amended site plan approval for 22 houses and conforms with the township's stormwater management standards which are stricter than those of the Canal Commission. Mr. Kirkland moved waiving the project from stormwater management review, and approval; Mr. Herzog seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

5. 96-2298 - Airport Road Widening - East Windsor Township

The applicant proposes widening an existing road, adding a total of 1.2 acres of new impervious surface. Proposed roadside swales meet DRCC water quality criteria but there is inadequate right-of-way for full compliance with stormwater management standards. Mr. Amon recommended waiving stormwater management review based upon compelling public need. Mr. Herzog moved waiving the project from stormwater management review, and approval; Mr. Kirkland seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION OF D.O.T.'S REPORT ON WOODEN BRIDGES OVER THE CANAL

Mr. Sellner of the Department of Transportation explained that the consulting firm A.G. Lichtenstein was researching crash test results on various forms of timber bridges and that these results would be available next year. This study is being conducted with the purpose of considering 24 bridges across the canal.

Mr. Howard of A.G. Lichtenstein said that the timber railing crash test would be based on a small pickup truck moving at 60 miles per hour. He said that three designs of guide railings were considered, and one was selected for recommendation. The recommended design consisted of three glue-lam rails with timber posts, 3'6" high. He said that based upon computer modeling, this design would pass the crash test to be conducted in May of 1997.

A discussion about various design considerations ensued. The Commissioners expressed concern that the rails were too massive, and asked the D.O.T. to consider thinner, steel rails. Also, they felt that three rails would obscure the view of the canal, and asked whether it would be possible to use black vinyl screening to prevent children from squeezing through rails, thereby allowing a two-rail design to be used. Mr. Sellner said that he would consider these matters and report back.

Mr. Von Zumbusch agreed with the Commissioners concerns and added that approaches to the bridges should be studied as well. Mr. Amon commented that it was unfortunate that the D.O.T. determined a threshold of 60 mph for crash-testing, because this speed was 20 to 35 mph faster than any speed limit on the 24 bridges under consideration. Mr. Howard replied that although this study was being made to consider the 24 canal bridges, the D.O.T. was also using the study for bridges statewide.

DISCUSSION OF TIME AND CONTENT FOR RETREAT BY MEMBERS OF THE CANAL COMMISSION

The Commissioners agreed to consider conducting a retreat at the Commission office in Stockton to discuss Canal Park issues during the first week of December. Mr. Amon recommended using Mr. Tom O'Neil as a facilitator.

REVIEW OF VOLUNTEER CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE CANAL PARK

Mr. Amon distributed a list of volunteer services performed by organizations. Mr. Stern reported on numbers of volunteers used during 1995 in the Canal Park. He said they served as "visitor services assistants" and "etiquette police;" they also performed maintenance and cleanup services for the park. The Commissioners were very favorably impressed.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

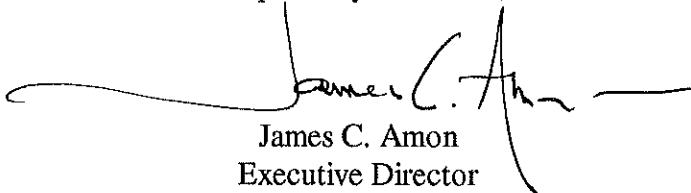
Mr. Amon announced that an art show focusing on the canal was currently taking place in the Prallsville Grist Mill. He also expressed concerns about an upcoming application known as the Millstone Bypass.

CANAL PARK SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Stern reported that a ceremony honoring Squibb for its donation of the Par Course in the Canal Park would take place on October 21st at Scudder's Falls. He said a pay phone has been installed in Kingston, and that work is being done to renovate the Calhoun Street bridge over the former railroad right-of-way.

The meeting adjourned at 1:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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

James C. Amon
Executive Director