



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF JANUARY 6, 1997

TIME: 9:30 A.M. - 2:45 P.M.
DATE: Monday, January 6, 1997
PLACE: The Riverview, Johnson and Johnson's Guest House
New Brunswick, New Jersey

DELAWARE AND RARITAN
CANAL COMMISSION

ATTENDING:

COMMISSIONERS: Messrs. Herzog, Jessen, Kirkland, Marshall, Pauley, Torpey;
Mrs. Nash and Ms. Goodspeed

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

GUESTS: Mr. Jack Mullen, Johnson & Johnson
Mr. Tom O'Neill, The Partnership for New Jersey
Kay & Larry Pitt, Canal Society of New Jersey
Linda J. House, Canal Society of New Jersey
Paul Stern, D&R Canal State Park
Robert von Zumbusch
Tom Price, NJ Water Supply Authority

Mr. Torpey opened the meeting and announced that this was a meeting of the D&R Canal Commission and that all provisions of the Open Public Meeting Law of 1976 had been met.

Mr. Torpey introduced Mr. Jack Mullen, Vice President of Johnson & Johnson's International Division, and the host of the meeting. Mr. Mullen spoke of the strong and important relationship between Johnson & Johnson and the D&R Canal.

Mr. Torpey then introduced Mr. Tom O'Neill, Executive Director of The Partnership for New Jersey, and the facilitator for the meeting. Mr. O'Neill suggested the Commission consider a five-year vision which would include goals and strategies. He then asked for suggestions of goals from the Commissioners and elicited the following responses:

- protect the park from extraneous traffic; improve traffic circulation around and through the park.
- establish a big annual event, such as a canoe race, to help provide income for maintenance.
- protect the park by acquiring more land adjacent to the park.
- improve maintenance; restore and create paths.
- increase active, water-based recreational activities, such as boat rides.

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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*

- increase public awareness of canal and what it has to offer.
- achieve greater harmony between the Commission's Development Plan and municipal/county ordinances.
- increase general public's awareness of the park's value and its importance as a water source even if they don't use it.
- focus on interpretation and education (better visitor services) to build long-term support.
- increase awareness of the park among legislators and the governor.
- become a more pro-active Commission - reach out to volunteer groups (eg., attend environmental commission meetings).
- build more access areas and trails for increased use by park neighbors.
- inter-connect adjoining paths and greenways to Canal Park's paths.

At this point Mr. O'Neill asked the Commissioners to consider how much use they thought the park could handle. Mr. Jessen said the park needs more use; Mr. Herzog said the park needs more awareness, but not necessarily more use. Mr. Amon said that access should be increased in lesser-used areas.

More goals were suggested:

- establish a connection to Pennsylvania's canal and the future transportation museum.
- work more closely with private and volunteer groups to increase funding.
- look at federal programs for funding and enhancement.
- adopt a quasi "Chamber of Commerce" philosophy.

Mr. O'Neill commented that the Commissioners seemed to be saying that they would like the Commission to be more of an advocate for the Canal Park. Further suggestions:

- establish a stable source of funding for land acquisition, capital improvements and maintenance.
- connect the D&R and the Delaware Canal with a ferry.
- continue putting areas adjacent to the canal on the National Register; establish a program in local schools on canal history.
- talk to municipal officials.
- develop a plan for education.
- save and use historic buildings; restore private historic buildings next to the canal.
- establish a direct relationship with municipalities along the Canal Park.
- establish a keener appreciation of natural areas in the Canal Park.
- increase public awareness of water usage.
- prepare a written report that clearly defines the roles of Parks & Forestry, the Water Supply Authority, and the Canal Commission.
- see how much can get done by private enterprise.
- have the Commission work more closely with Parks & Forestry on the Canal Park's budget and help with lobbying.

- acquire bluffs along Route 29.
- encourage adoption of W&S River Management Plan; acquire Delaware River islands.
- encourage volunteers to help with maintenance and advocacy.
- hold a canal convention.

Mr. O'Neill asked those people attending other than Commissioners for ideas. Mr. von Zumbusch suggested the Commissioners emphasize the Canal Park's role as a planning tool for the region. Mr. Weyl suggested inviting municipal officials to visit sections of the park, along with Commissioners.

Mr. O'Neill then asked the Commissioners to vote for their favorite four goals. Three goals that received several votes were:

1. Protect the Canal Park from encroachment by additional land acquisition.
2. Increase awareness.
3. Increase appreciation of the Canal Park as habitat.

The Commissioners felt that increased funding should be a major goal of the vision statement, and that appreciation of the park as a natural habitat could be included under general park protection (#1). Mr. Jessen expressed concern that the Commission was neglecting historically-based recreational activities. After further discussion and lunch, Mr. O'Neill devised the following vision statement:

In five years, a canal park whose habitat, values and resources are protected securely by a continuous program of land acquisition, new regulatory techniques, and effective coordination with state agencies, county and local government and the private sector.

..A public with growing awareness and appreciation of the value of the resources and opportunities offered by the Canal Park, which is translated to political support.

...Increased funding from broad and stable sources, for land acquisition, capital improvements, and operations.

After further discussion it was agreed to add the word "historic" in front of "resources," and to delete "new regulatory techniques."

Mr. O'Neill asked for suggestions regarding strategies to implement the vision statement's goal of protecting the park:

- Involve the Commissioners in coordination with the private sector and governments.
- develop bios for each commissioner to see how their background and expertise could help the Commission.
- increase public relations efforts.

- prioritize lands for acquisition.
- notify towns along the canal of canal-related activities.
- work with DOT on canal crossings and their relationship to historic preservation nodes.
- plan periodic meetings with municipalities.
- meet with counties and other regional groups.
- coordinate with local farmland preservation programs.
- meet with representatives of federal organizations and Pennsylvania groups.

Mr. O'Neill then asked for strategies to implement the goal of increasing public awareness:

- staff should include publicity as a consideration on all major activities.
- hold two public forums with non-profits annually to encourage appreciation; include an award ceremony and a recreational activity.
- reach out to schools; design presentation according to local history.
- mark park boundaries with signs with mule and barge logo.
- develop canal boat ride.
- send annual report, regular communications to state legislators focusing on accomplishments; Commissioners should follow up with phone calls.
- present updates at monthly meetings; prepare periodic reports on goals and strategies.
- have Commissioners visit the canal.
- work with elected officials' staff.
- add staff person to be responsible for awareness issues.
- expand, improve visitor and interpretive services.
- generate more volunteers to supplement staff.

The following strategies were suggested to increase funding:

- coordinate existing sources of funding and look for new sources.
- explore a dedicated realty acquisition tax as a source of funding for county and local land acquisition on model of Somerset County.
- review and lobby for Division of Parks budget.
- add grant seeking function for federal and private funding.
- investigate fee sale of water for park purposes.

In addition to goals and strategies, the following suggestions were made during the course of discussion:

- creating more crossings to protect other more fragile areas in the park.
- encouraging advocacy rather than regulation.
- encourage Mayor Palmer to become more pro-active.

Mr. O'Neill then helped the Commissioners summarize the main strategies:

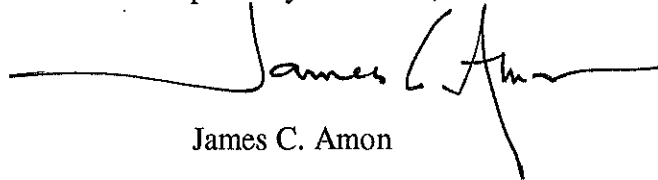
Protection: review and prioritize resources to be protected; develop a plan for closer relations with municipalities along the canal.

Awareness: hold a public forum; send communication regularly to legislators; provide periodic reports to the Commissioners; install signs with Commission logo.

Funding: hold a special meeting to review funding sources.

The meeting ended at 2:45.

Respectfully submitted,

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

James C. Amon