

December 17

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ~~NOVEMBER 19~~, 1997

TIME: 12:15 PM to 1:45 PM
DATE: Wednesday, December 17, 1997
PLACE: Canal Commission Office
Prallsville Mills, Stockton, NJ



DELAWARE AND RARITAN
CANAL COMMISSION

ATTENDING:

COMMISSIONERS: Messrs. Herzog, Jessen, Pauley, Torpey; Ms. Goodspeed and Mrs. Nash
STAFF: Mr. Amon, Ms. Holms
Mr. Lewin Weyl, Deputy Attorney General
GUESTS: Bill McKelvey, Friends of NJ RR & Transportation Museum
Matt Kennedy, NJ Water Supply Authority
Robert Mettler, Franklin Township Historian
Paul Stern, D&R Canal State Park
Robert von Zumbusch
Chris Dorey
Linda House, Canal Society of New Jersey

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

Mr. Pauley moved the approval of the minutes of November 19, 1997; Mr. Jessen seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously

REVIEW ZONE PROJECTS

Mr. Amon presented the following "A" Zone project application:

97-2408 - Battle Monument Park Restoration - Trenton

Mr. Amon said that the proposed restoration entailed extensive landscape installation. He said that a gas station is currently operating between the Battle Monument and the Canal Park. Mr. Jessen moved the approval of the Battle Monument Park Restoration; Ms. Goodspeed seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Herzog joined the meeting at 12:25 PM.

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EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR
Les C. Amon

COMMISSIONERS

Frank J. Torpey
Chairman

Martin D. Jessen
Vice-Chairman

Winona D. Nash
Treasurer

Sam Herzog
R. William Pauley

Robert C. Shinn, Jr.
Caroline J. S. Armstrong

Douglas H. Palmer
Marfy Goodspeed

NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
Christine Todd Whitman, Governor Robert C. Shinn, Jr. Commissioner

Mr. Amon then presented two "B" Zone project applications:

96-2325 - Hindu Temple - Franklin Township, Somerset County; a 30,000 square-foot temple plus parking on 13 acres with one detention basin.

97-2368 - Deerfield Estates - South Brunswick Township; 47 single-family houses with one detention basin; a conservation easement will protect a stream corridor (Devil's Brook) which runs through the site.

Mr. Amon said that DEP's Stream Encroachment Division would be reviewing Deerfield Estates for stormwater management and recommended that the Commission waive this aspect of its review. He also recommended that the Commission approve the project with the condition that the Commission receive an executed and recorded conservation easement for the stream corridor before releasing the Certificate of Approval. He recommended approval of the Hindu Temple.

Ms. Goodspeed moved the approval of the two "B" Zone projects with the condition as stated for Deerfield Estates; Mrs. Nash seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Amon presented a second "A" Zone application:

97-2409 - Weston Canal Road Pump Station Upgrade - Franklin Township, Somerset County; Mr. Amon said that a small one-story addition is being proposed for the rear of an existing pump house, approximately 200 feet from the Canal Park. Weston Canal Road is between it and the park. Mr. Amon recommended approval conditioned upon the submission of a plan that included a landscape buffer to help screen the site from the Canal Park. Mr. Jessen moved approval with that condition, Mr. Herzog seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Amon then presented an application from the Department of Transportation to reconstruct the Calhoun Street bridge over the Bel-Del right-of-way. He said that the Department is proposing to lower the bridge and install a new deck on the existing stone piers. He recommended that the Commission authorize him to sign the permit for this project from the Division of Parks and Forestry once it is prepared. Mr. Jessen moved approval of the authorization, Mrs. Nash seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Amon spoke of a recently-completed project in Franklin Township, the realignment of Amwell Road. He said that the Commission approved the project with the condition that a painted crosswalk be installed where the road intersects the towpath. The crosswalk was never installed, and after Mr. Amon inquired, he was told by the Somerset County Engineering Department that they would not construct the crosswalk because they have had "previous litigation" for this type of crosswalk. They do not think that a crosswalk at this location would be safe. The Commissioners directed Mr. Amon to find out about the litigation they have had and to assert the Commission's belief that a crosswalk would enhance safety for park users.

PROPOSAL FOR TOWPATH RESTORATION AFTER 1986 SUN PIPELINE FIRE

Mr. Stern presented a proposal by the Division of Parks and Forestry to improve and restore the area in the Canal Park near Alexander Road in Princeton that was burned by a pipeline fire in 1986, using funds received from a lawsuit settlement. He said the plan will take place over a period of ten years, using a crew of 3-4 employees who will work on the area mainly in the fall of each year. Plans include widening the original towpath to eight feet, clearing and trimming vegetation, abandoning the current path on the floodguard berm, and installing trees to screen the path from nearby residences.

Mr. Amon endorsed the project, but felt that it was more a conceptual plan, and recommended the Commission approve it with the condition that Mr. Amon and Mr. Stern work together on a yearly basis to agree on specific plans for that year. With that condition, Mr. Jessen moved the approval of the Sun Pipeline Fire Restoration Plan, Ms. Goodspeed seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

MEETING AGENDA FOR 1998

A proposed meeting schedule was distributed to the Commissioners for 1998, with meetings scheduled for the third Wednesday of each month at 12:00 noon. Mrs. Nash moved the approval of the meeting schedule for 1998, Mr. Herzog seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

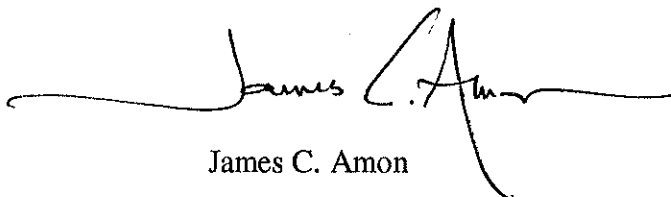
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Amon reported on the status of the proposed demolition of two historic houses owned by Trap Rock in Franklin Township. He said that he is trying to meet with Trap Rock representatives to discuss alternatives. Mr. Mettler, Chairman of the Franklin Township Historical Commission, suggested that his Commission circulate a petition that would offer support toward saving the houses. Mr. Amon also reported on a recent meeting held by the East Coast Greenway, an organization whose mission is to create a continuous path from Maine to Florida. He said that thus far New Jersey has the longest continuous stretch, which is 26 miles (the canal towpath from South Bound Brook to Trenton).

CANAL PARK SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Stern reported that PSE&G's contractor was presently working on the pedestrian bridge over the Millstone Aqueduct. He said that Lawrence Township will start working soon on a path that would connect the Brearly House to the Canal Park. Asbestos will be removed from the basement of the Canal Park main office to allow for more storage capability.

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 flourish extending downwards to the right.

James C. Amon