

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF APRIL 21, 1999

TIME: 9:35 A.M. – 11:45 A.M.
DATE: Wednesday, April 21, 1999
PLACE: Canal Commission Office
Stockton, New Jersey



DELAWARE AND RARITAN
CANAL COMMISSION

ATTENDING:

COMMISSIONERS: Messrs. Herzog, Marshall, Pauley, Torpey;
Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Goodspeed, Mrs. Nash and
Ms. Shaddow (representative for Mayor Palmer)
STAFF: Mr. Amon and Ms. Holms
Mr. Lewin Weyl, Deputy Attorney General
GUESTS: Ms. Susan Herron, Superintendent, D&R Canal State Park

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

REVIEW OF THE STATUS OF PRESENT WORK AGENDA (ACTION PLAN)

Mr. Torpey said that the primary purpose of this retreat was to look at where the Canal Commission is now, and to discuss what direction it should go in the future. He suggested that Mr. Amon describe the status of Canal Park improvement projects, and asked the Commissioners what their vision is for the future.

Mr. Amon summarized the status of 32 projects that were proposed in the 1996 Development Plan, stating that five have been completed, 23 have been started, and only 4 have had no progress yet. He also reported on three additional projects that have had assistance from the Governor's office: 1) re-surfacing the path from Frenchtown to Bull's Island (completed), 2) rehabilitating the towpath between Five-Mile Lock and Landing Lane Bridge (almost completed), and 3) connecting the Canal Park to the Sourlands Reserve in Montgomery Township by building a pedestrian bridge across the Millstone River. Mr. Amon said that most of the right-of-way for this last project has been acquired, which would eventually add 7-8 miles of new trail.

Mr. Herzog joined the meeting at 10:00 AM.



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
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 said that serious efforts are currently being undertaken to fulfill the number one goal of the Canal Commission—a continuous path. He felt that there were two other important goals to work on, that of adding a second path on the other side of the canal in sections of the Park that are over-utilized, and connecting the paths to other resources. This goal would entail encouraging other governmental entities to build and maintain these connections. He also said that more work needs to be done toward improving interpretation of the Canal Park.

Ms. Armstrong questioned whether dual paths were appropriate in some sections, especially where wildlife habitat may be threatened. She suggested that the Commission take a more pro-active approach to protecting wildlife.

Ms. Shaddow joined the meeting at 10:30 AM.

Mrs. Nash brought up the Assunpink Greenway project as a good example of connecting the Canal Park to other resources.

It was agreed that a meeting would be scheduled at a future date to review the status of land acquisition.

Mr. Amon reported that the June 13th gala event to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Canal Park was postponed to the fall. He said that two bus tours of the Canal Park will take place in May and September, and a symposium on the D&R Canal will take place on November 13th at Prallsville Mills. Several libraries in the region have agreed to display a "then and now" photo exhibit of the D&R Canal.

DISCUSSION OF GOALS

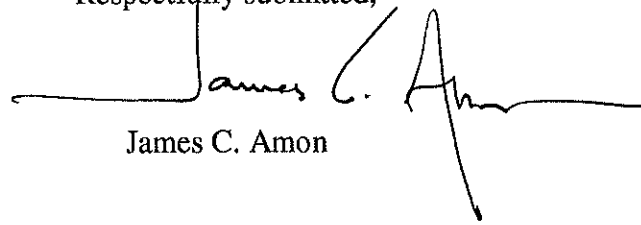
Mr. Amon agreed to provide the Commissioners with a periodic report on the "Linkages" project. Ms. Armstrong suggested an annual guided tour of both good and bad examples of review zone projects and park improvement projects. The Commissioners also suggested that the staff compile a package for review zone applicants that helps make the regulations more easily understandable. Ms. Armstrong suggested an Awards program that would recognize good planning on development projects. Mr. Herzog suggested that the Canal Commission be represented at the annual League of Municipalities Convention. Mr. Pauley suggested that Canal Park trail projects could be better promoted in the press. Mr. Marshall said this could be done through the Division of Parks and Forestry's staff. Mr. Torpey suggested that a periodic legislative communication program be developed. Mr. Marshall said that this, too, was being addressed by the Division, but that perhaps more attention could be paid to the Canal Park.

Regarding improvement of park interpretation, Mr. Marshall suggested that the Water Supply Authority create and install a wayside interpretive exhibit about water use and the D&R Canal. Ms. Shaddow said that more public education is needed, and that a canal museum would be worthwhile. Ms. Herron said that the soon-to-be-hired historic

specialist should help in this area. Mr. Amon said that D&R Canal Watch has agreed to install interpretive signs about canal locks at each lock.

The meeting adjourned at 11:45 AM.

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 right.

James C. Amon