



DELAWARE AND RARITAN
CANAL COMMISSION

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF DECEMBER 15, 1999

TIME: 12:20 P.M. - 1:30 P.M.
DATE: Wednesday, December 15, 1999
PLACE: Canal Commission Office
Stockton, New Jersey

ATTENDING:

COMMISSIONERS: Messrs. Jessen, Herzog, Pauley, Marshall, Torpey;
Mrs. Nash
STAFF: Mr. Amon and Ms. Wannemacher
GUESTS: Susan Herron, Superintendent, D&R Canal State Park
Becky Williams, Assistant Superintendent, D&R Canal State Park
Linda Barth, Canal Society of NJ
Barbara Ross, D&R Canal Watch
Joe Shepherd, NJ Water Supply Authority

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. Herzog moved approval of the minutes of the November 17, 1999 meeting; Mr. Jessen seconded the motion. The motion passed without dissent, Mrs. Nash abstaining.
Mrs. Nash moved approval of the minutes of the December 1, 1999 special meeting; Mr. Herzog seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

REVIEW ZONE PROJECTS

Mr. Amon presented four "B" Zone applications for approval.

99-2554 - Lawrence Lexus - Lawrence Township

Mr. Amon said the applicant proposes to build a showroom and parking, adding a little more than one acre of impervious surface. Plans conform to DRCC stormwater and water quality regulations. Staff recommends approval.

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EXECUTIVE
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James C. Amon

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R. William Pauley

Robert C. Shinn, Jr.
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Marfy Goodspeed

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

99-2555 - Commodities Corporation - Princeton Township

The applicant proposes to construct a parking garage and office building on 19.5 acres. An existing detention basin will be expanded to manage stormwater runoff. The existing parking and detention basin encroach on a stream corridor but were constructed before the Stream Corridor Impact Regulation. In compensation, the applicant has agreed to build the proposed garage over the existing parking lot and to expand a conservation corridor on the other side of the stream. Staff recommends waiver from strict compliance with the regulation. The detention basin meets stormwater and water quality regulations.

98-2442 - Preston Properties - Millstone Township

Mr. Amon said the applicant proposes to build 35 homes on 85 acres. The project will require DEP review and Stream Encroachment Permit, therefore the Commission waives review of stormwater management. Staff recommends approval.

98-2485 - Forsgate Industrial Complex Site S-103 - South Brunswick Township

Mr. Amon said the project is for construction of a 87,582 square foot office and warehouse on 6.3 acres within an industrial complex. Stormwater will be managed by modifications to an existing basin. The plans are in compliance with DRCC regulations and staff recommends approval.

Mr. Jessen moved approval of the four "B" Zone projects; Mr. Herzog seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Amon presented one "A" Zone project.

99-2588 - Maxwell Billboard - Trenton

Mr. Amon said that the applicant has requested that the Canal Commission hold on project review until the January meeting.

Mrs. Nash said that the proposed site is in an industrial area that a sign wouldn't make visually worse but might improve.

MEETING SCHEDULE 2000

Mr. Amon presented a schedule of dates for monthly meetings of the Canal Commission in the year 2000. The schedule is for the third Wednesday of the month as in 1999. Mr. Jessen moved approval of the schedule; Mrs. Nash seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Mr. Torpey said a Commission retreat will be scheduled in early 2000, probably February or March.

CANAL PARK SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Ms. Susan Herron reported that three new employees have been hired, a naturalist, a maintenance worker and a ranger. The naturalist, Stephanie Vannais, has previously worked for Fish, Game & Wildlife and for the Hunterdon County Park System. The Commission was pleased to hear of additional staff.

There have been a lot of hunters in Six Mile Run this year and reports of large numbers of deer killed.

Ms. Herron has completed a FEMA application for Hurricane Floyd damages to towpath and buildings for over \$400,000. FEMA will also pay flood insurance difference on park buildings that are not covered by state . FEMA reimburses after expenditures. Mr. Marshall said that DOT is prepared to put up money to restore the towpath. Ms. Herron has estimated repair to Griggstown Barracks to be \$108,000. Already \$12,000 has been spent on repairs and this has created a shortfall in the regular maintenance budget. Ms. Herron said she has no time frame established for towpath and building repairs.

The State Park Superintendents monthly meeting at Prallsville Mills was well attended. Many commented on the well maintained appearance of the Prallsville section.

Blackwells Mills Canal House held a holiday art show and sale, and Rockingham held a holiday Candlelight Tour. Mr. Marshall said that Rockingham is scheduled to be moved summer-fall 2000. Plans and specifications have been completed at a cost of \$465,000 and bidding for the actual work will begin. This is the third move for Rockingham.

Ms. Herron said that the design of the Irish Immigrant Display is now out to bid.

Mr. Amon informed Ms. Herron that the Commission resolution with Sprint PCS for a cellular tower at Titusville includes a condition that Sprint provide any communication services desired by the state park. Ms. Herron said she has contacted Motorola about communication service. Ms. Herron said that at present the state park has 25-year old radios and two cell phones from the Mill Society. Communication technology is really bad, and staff can't reach Trenton from Kingston. Mr. Marshall said DEP is reluctant to provide cell phones to DEP employees. Mr. Jessen said there is enormous advantages to cell phone communication, but there is a need to monitor illegal use. Mr. Marshall commended the resolution drafted by Commission's counsel that will preserve all options for park personnel.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Amon said that he will present a draft of the 1999 Annual Report at the January meeting.

Mr. Amon presented 1999 projects that he predicts will be on the agenda in 2000:

Millstone By-Pass: There has been no response from NJ DOT to the Commission's letter which reviewed its concerns regarding the project.

Canal Road House Demolition, Griggstown: Trap Rock is not agreeable to leaving historic house foundations in place, and the matter is unresolved.

Cellular Communication Towers: Franklin Township has denied a variance for a tower along the canal at East Millstone. Another tower is proposed at the Griggstown Historic District. More will be coming, and the Commission is seeking an orderly procedure to address this issue. Mrs. Nash said planning boards at the local, county and state levels need to take a pro-active position, establish parameters and locate appropriate sites. Mr. Herzog agreed. Mrs. Nash said this is really a state issue, and small municipalities can't deal with it. Mr. Marshall said that the Canal Commission should create an information package for wireless companies. Mr. Torpey said that Mr. Amon will draw up guidelines for the Commission's review of these projects. Mr. Jessen requested that Mr. Amon provide him a first draft of this paper.

Land Acquisitions: Mr. Amon has worked with Division of Parks & Forestry to acquire additional lands for the Canal Park. Mr. Amon said the proposed "Crossroads of the Revolution", a continuous public park route through central New Jersey from Washington Crossing to Monmouth Battlefield with branches to Trenton and Morristown, is receiving a lot of land acquisition attention now. He said that the Canal Park is in the center of this project area which is good news for the Canal Park and for Canal Park users. Mr. Amon hopes to be involved with this project.

WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY REPORT

Mr. Joe Shepherd said the Authority is presently evaluating some proposals for improvements to Five Mile Lock. Also repairs are underway on the Port Mercer Finger Dike. Mr. Shepherd said the Authority will be coordinating with Susan Herron and her staff for towpath repair and will be sharing its former field office on Route One with the Canal Park staff for vehicles and other items.

Ms. Linda Barth asked that the Authority remove trees which are damaging the South Bound Brook Lock.

PUBLIC FORUM

Ms. Linda Barth announced that the 11th World Canal Conference will be held September 11-15, 2000 at Rochester, NY. (The 2001 conference will be in Dublin, Ireland.) The conference addresses contemporary canal programs and issues. Mr. Torpey asked Ms. Barth to provide literature to the Commission.

Ms. Barth said that news articles about damage to the Muletender Barracks has resulted in \$1400 in private donations including a substantial one from Gov. Whitman.

Ms. Barth presented the final report to the Commission on the 25th Anniversary Celebration. Ms. Barth said the anniversary events were well attended and that public awareness of the Canal Park has been enhanced. The Commission thanked her for her excellent job of coordinating the celebration.

Ms. Barth presented a letter from herself to the Commission in regard to the East Millstone, Franklin Township, cellular tower proposal. Ms. Barth stated that she joins other organizations and agencies in opposing construction of the Sprint Omnipoint facility in the canal zone because of its negative impact on historic districts and the viewscape. Ms. Barth urges the Commission be steadfast in preserving the viewscape of the D & R Canal.

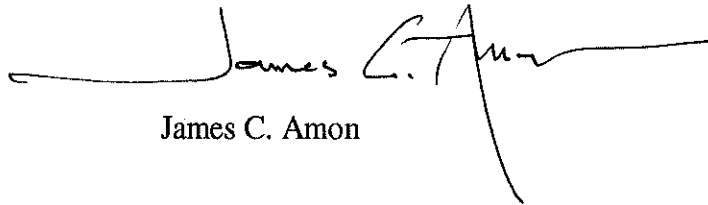
Ms. Barth then presented a letter from the Canal Society of New Jersey to the Commission. The Canal Society fully supports an unobstructed viewscape along the D & R Canal and opposes any structure which would impose on the historic setting. Denial of the Omnipoint tower at East Millstone was the correct decision. More tower proposals are pending. The Society stands ready to support the Commission in opposing any structures which would infringe on this historic setting.

Mr. Marshall provided copies of the DEP, Division of Parks & Forestry FY2000 Performance Plan.

Mr. Torpey thanked the Commissioners for their efforts and support over this past year.

The meeting adjourned at 1:30 PM. Motion by Mr. Pauley; second by Mr. Jessen.

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