



DELAWARE AND RARITAN
CANAL COMMISSION

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MARCH 15, 2000

TIME: 12:10 P.M. - 2:30 P.M.
DATE: Wednesday, March 15, 2000
PLACE: Canal Commission Office
Stockton, New Jersey

ATTENDING:

COMMISSIONERS: Messrs. Barker, Jessen, Herzog, 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: Susan Herron, Superintendent, D&R Canal State Park
Rebecca Williams, Assistant Superintendent, D&R Canal State Park
Barbara Ross, D&R Canal Watch
Joe Shepherd, NJ Water Supply Authority
Peggy Killmer
Portia Orton
David Campbell, Princeton Packet
Jean Mahoney, Washington Road Elms Preservation Trust
Bobbi Parmet, S.T.O.P.
Robert Von Zumbusch
Charles Dieterich, Kingston Greenways Associations
Jan ten Broek, Millstone Valley Preservation Coalition

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 approval of the minutes of the February 16, 2000 meeting; Ms. Goodspeed seconded the motion. The motion passed without dissent.

LEASES AND PERMITS

Mr. Amon presented a special use permit application which would allow the applicant to test soil borings on State Park property next to the former Hydrocarbon chemical plant, which is located

PRALLSVILLE MILLS PO. 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

near the Lawrence Township/Trenton boundary. Mr. Barker moved approval of the permit conditioned upon the Commission receiving the test results once performed; Ms. Armstrong seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

REVIEW ZONE PROJECTS

Mr. Amon presented two "A" Zone applications for approval:

00-2618 - Orton House Demolition - Franklin Township, Somerset County

The applicant is proposing to demolish a house that is approximately 100 feet from the Canal Park. Mr. Amon said that part of the house may date from the 18th century, but there have been several additions and the entire house has not had maintenance for several decades. He said the Franklin Township Historical Commission has recommended approval of the demolition request.

00-2619 - Semple House Addition - Hopewell Township

The applicant is proposing to construct a 2-story addition to an existing house located approximately 100 feet from the Canal Park. The addition will be partially screened by an existing garage and a hedgerow of mature trees.

Ms. Goodspeed moved approval of the two "A" Zone projects; Mr. Pauley seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Amon then presented three "B" Zone projects for review and approval:

99-2597 - Princeton Christian Church - Montgomery Township

99-2537 - Princeton Medical Center Office Building - Monroe Township

99-2582 - Carnegie Center West, Building 901 - West Windsor Township

Mr. Amon said the three projects were reviewed by the Commission's engineer, Ms. Guru, and found to be in compliance with the stormwater impact regulations. Mrs. Nash moved approval of the three "B" Zone applications; Ms. Armstrong seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION OF PROPOSAL FOR REMEDIATION OF GAF HAZARDOUS MATERIALS PILE

Mr. Amon described the latest proposal to remediate the hazardous material at the former GAF plant in South Bound Brook, next to the canal. He said that steel mesh would be installed over the pile of asbestos and dirt would be put on top. He also said that a 20-foot tall, 200-foot long concrete wall would be installed along the Raritan River, above the water level, to prevent the material from getting into the river. After some discussion, the Commissioners agreed with Mr. Amon that this proposal was not appropriate, and that they would prefer that the hazardous

material be removed.

DISCUSSION OF REVIEW ZONE REGULATION FOR WIRELESS COMMUNICATION TOWERS

Mr. Amon distributed a draft regulation for wireless communication towers and their impact when located in the Commission's "A" Review Zone. The draft included the Commission's jurisdiction, general considerations, proposed submission requirements, and proposed review standards. After some discussion, it was agreed that a second draft would be widely circulated, and then a public meeting regarding the issue would be scheduled.

CANAL PARK SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Herron announced that several new programs about the natural and historic resources of the Canal Park would be held, and distributed a schedule. She said that Park staff and the Department of Corrections were conducting a cleanup at Cadwaladar Park.

WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY REPORT

Mr. Shepherd reported that repair at the 5-mile lock was completed, and that towpath restoration at Alexander Road would continue until April 1, when it would be suspended during bird nesting season. He said that Water Supply Authority representatives would be visiting the Salem nuclear plant to inspect an automatic trash rack, which could possibly be used for the canal.

OLD BUSINESS

The Commissioners discussed the prospect of conducting tours of the canal. It was suggested that three 3-hour tours be arranged.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Torpey suggested that a retreat for the Commission be held on the morning of April's regularly scheduled public meeting. He asked the Commissioners for topics to be considered, and the following were mentioned: cell towers, canal visits, funding for historic structures, traffic and canal crossings, the Millstone Bypass, and the status of deteriorating structures and what can be done about them.

Mrs. Nash brought up the issue of billboards near the Canal Park, and felt that Trenton's ordinance regarding them should be changed to be more sensitive to the Canal Park. Mr. Amon agreed to write a letter to Mayor Palmer about this issue.

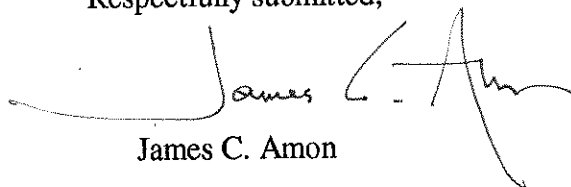
PUBLIC FORUM

Mr. von Zumbusch said that 2 million square feet of building is being proposed on Princeton Forrestal property in Plainsboro Township, between Mapleton Road and Route One. Although not in the "A" Zone, Mr. von Zumbusch felt that concern should be given toward protecting the viewsheds along the canal, and he also felt that this development would be a threat to the historic town of Kingston.

Ms. Mahoney distributed an article regarding the historic elm allee along Washington Road in West Windsor, saying that the proposed Millstone Bypass would require that some be cut down.

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James C. Amon". The signature is stylized with a large initial "J" and a long horizontal stroke extending to the left. The name "James" is written in a cursive script, followed by "C." and "Amon".

James C. Amon