

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL RETREAT OF APRIL 25, 2000

TIME: 9:00 A.M. - 11:55 A.M.
DATE: Tuesday, April 25, 2000
PLACE: Canal Commission Office
Stockton, New Jersey



DELAWARE AND RARITAN
CANAL COMMISSION

ATTENDING:

COMMISSIONERS: Messrs. Herzog, Jessen, Marshall, Pauley, Torpey;
Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Goodspeed, and Mrs. Nash
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
Robert Von Zumbusch
Jan ten Broek, Millstone Valley Preservation Coalition
Ann Brady, The Regional Planning Partnership
Linda Mead, D&R Greenway
Bruce Hamilton, The Meadows Foundation
Kathleen Williamson, The Meadows Foundation

Mr. Torpey opened the meeting and announced that this was the annual retreat for the Canal Commission, to which the public had been invited, and that all provisions of the Open Public Meeting Law of 1976 had been met.

Mr. Amon opened the discussion with a summary of types of projects and jobs the Canal Commission staff are presently undertaking. He described several of the planning efforts that he was involved with other organizations, as well as continuation of the design and implementation of the Canal Linkages project. Ms. Holms described her activities regarding the reviewing, mapping, and monitoring of stream corridors in the Commission's Review Zone. Mr. Amon said that because of these increased duties, he and Ms. Holms felt that the Administrative Assistant position, currently a part-time position, should be full-time. The Commissioners concurred.

Mr. Amon then reviewed the status of the Development Plan that was adopted in 1996. It was agreed that a new Development Plan should be drafted. A discussion about how to prioritize projects ensued. Mr. Marshall encouraged the Commission to work together with the Division of

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EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR
James C. Amon

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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

Parks and Forestry and the Water Supply Authority to achieve a consensus about priorities of Canal Park projects. He said that the funding for maintenance of ever-increasing facilities was still problematic. Ms. Herron said that the operating budget for the maintenance of 151 buildings in the Canal Park and Six Mile Run was \$199,000. Mr. Torpey suggested the Commissioners lobby their Legislators for increased funding of facility maintenance.

Mr. Amon then presented a Powerpoint presentation of the Canal Linkages project. He said that he envisioned 16 potential links between the Canal Park and other cultural or natural resources. He gave the example of linking the Canal Park to the Delaware Canal in Pennsylvania through the use of interpretive signs in both parks that would describe possible hiking/biking trail loops and give their distances.

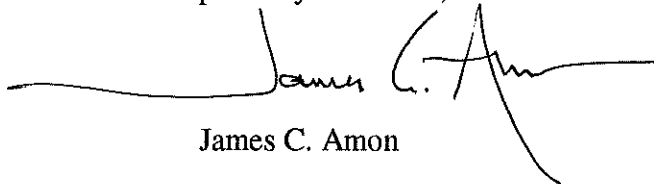
Mr. Torpey then asked the Commissioners to think about where the Commission would like to go from here, and what issues should be discussed. Ms. Goodspeed suggested that communication between other government agencies could be better improved, and suggested distributing a brochure to municipal offices and planning boards that described the functions of the Canal Commission. Mr. von Zumbusch suggested that the Commission continue working with the State Planning Office on designating a special D&R Canal district as part of the State Plan. Mrs. Nash expressed skepticism that the State Plan would ever be implemented.

Other issues discussed were maintenance of structures, including preventative maintenance and flood proofing. The issue of increased traffic in the region was also raised. A proposal to build another canal crossing in the Griggstown area to alleviate traffic problems at the existing Griggstown bridges was discussed. Mr. Hamilton said that his experience as a planning board member showed that building new roads does not solve traffic problems.

Ms. Armstrong felt that coordination regarding open space planning could be improved. Mr. von Zumbusch spoke of the proposed plan called the Crossroads of the Revolution and asked how this plan related to the goals and objectives of the D&R Canal Park's Master Plan.

The retreat ended at 11:55 PM.

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 large, sweeping flourish on the right side.

James C. Amon