



DELAWARE AND RARITAN
CANAL COMMISSION

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF AUGUST 16, 2000

TIME: 12:20 P.M. - 1:50 P.M.
DATE: Wednesday, August 16, 2000
PLACE: Canal Commission Office
Stockton, New Jersey

ATTENDING:

COMMISSIONERS: Messrs. Herzog, Jessen, Marshall, Pauley, and Torpey;
Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Goodspeed and Mrs. Nash
STAFF: Mr. Amon and Ms. Holms
Mr. Lewin Weyl, Deputy Attorney General
GUESTS: Rebecca Williams, Assistant Superintendent, D&R Canal State Park
Sue Herron, Superintendent, D&R Canal State Park
Joe Shepherd, NJ Water Supply Authority
Linda Barth, Canal Society of New Jersey
Jean Mahoney, Millstone Bypass Alert Coalition
Mark Berry, Trenton Times
Daniel Clifton
Karen Murphy, Bressler, Amery & Ross
William J. Cerynik, State Park Service Central Region
Mary M. Penney, Sierra Club
Gary C. Dahms, T&M Associates

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 meeting of July 19, 2000; Mr. Herzog seconded the motion. Messrs. Herzog, Jessen, Marshall, Pauley, Torpey, Ms. Armstrong and Mrs. Nash voted in favor of the motion; Ms. Goodspeed abstained. The motion passed.

REVIEW ZONE ACTIONS

Mr. Amon presented three "A" Zone applications for review and approval:

00-2383A - Swan Creek Retaining Wall - Lambertville

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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 the applicant is proposing to repair a partially collapsed stone wall with a reinforced concrete wall faced with stone, using specifications similar to those that the Water Supply Authority uses for repairing culvert headwalls.

00-2629 - Mapleton Office Renovation - Plainsboro

The applicant is proposing to renovate an historic farmhouse and use it as an office building. Mr. Jessen moved approval of the Mapleton Office renovation; Ms. Armstrong seconded the motion. Messrs. Herzog, Jessen, Marshall, Pauley, Torpey, Ms. Armstrong and Mrs. Nash voted in favor of the motion; Ms. Goodspeed abstained. The motion passed.

00-2656 - Canal Road Guide Rail - Franklin Township

Mr. Amon said that after speaking to representatives of the New Jersey Department of Transportation, the DOT's Local Government Services Division agreed to partially fund the Canal Road guide rail project using a wooden guiderail design known as Merritt Parkway Guiderail. Ms. Goodspeed moved approval of the Swan Creek Retaining Wall and the Canal Road Guide Rail project, conditioned upon using Merritt Parkway Guiderail specifications. Mr. Herzog seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Amon presented an "A" Zone application for waiver from review of visual impact:

00-2668 - Martin Coryell House - Lambertville

The applicant is proposing to change a private historic residence into a bed & breakfast. Mr. Amon said that exterior work would be limited to a fence installation and added parking and would not be visible from the Canal Park. Ms. Goodspeed moved waiver of the application, Ms. Armstrong seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Amon said that the applicant for the Lawrence Township billboard project known as Outdoor Systems Advertising requested postponing action until September's meeting. Mrs. Nash moved approval of postponement until September, Ms. Armstrong seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Amon then presented the following "B" Zone applications for approval:

- 00-2637 - Cedar Brook Corporate Center - Cranbury Township
- 00-2635 - Scotto Farm Estates - Millstone Township, Monmouth County
- 00-2623 - Franklin Soccer Center - Franklin Township, Somerset County
- 00-2332A - The Square at West Windsor - West Windsor Township
- 00-1239A - American Re-Insurance Office - Plainsboro Township
- 00-2435B - Merrill Lynch Scotch Road Office Park Family Centers I & II
- 99-2592 - Brookside at Monroe - Monroe Township

99-0332E - South Brunswick Industrial Park - South Brunswick Township
00-2639 - Main Tape Company Phase I - South Brunswick Township

Ms. Holms said that the applicant for Brookside at Monroe has requested a waiver from strict compliance with the Stream Corridor Impact Regulation. She said that in exchange for intrusion into the stream corridor's 100-foot buffer, the applicant has agreed to preserve approximately the same amount of acreage along the headwaters of the tributary (approximately 2 acres), as well as plant wet-tolerant vegetation in the detention basin, as well as in the buffer area that is currently an oldfield. She recommended approving the waiver. A discussion about ensuring preservation of the stream corridor adjacent to homeowners' backyards followed. Mr. Herzog suggested that the conservation easement should be noted in the seller's prospectus.

Mr. Amon said that the Commission's Engineers had reviewed the "B" Zone projects for their stormwater management design and water quality, and found them to be in conformance with the Regulations. Mr. Herzog moved waiver of Brookside at Monroe from strict compliance with the Commission's Stream Corridor Impact Regulation and approval of the "B" Zone projects; Mr. Jessen seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

NJ WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY PROJECT: WATER LEVEL SENSING EQUIPMENT

Mr. Amon said that the Water Supply Authority is proposing to install devices above and below each lock to track the water level of the canal; the devices would be connected to underground wire that would then connect to new and existing utility poles. Mr. Jessen encouraged the Water Supply Authority to install interpretive signs about how the canal's structures are used to supply water. It was agreed to re-visit the subject at a future meeting. Mr. Jessen moved approval of the water level sensing equipment installation; Mrs. Nash seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

CANAL PARK SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Ms. Williams reported that a body was discovered in the Swan Creek spillway in Lambertville. She said that the Scudders Falls Bridge was in need of major repair, and that the Department of Transportation has agreed to undertake the repair. She said that Canal Park staff surveyed the park's path system and agreed that the path in Lawrence Township was first in re-surfacing priorities. She said that several Eagle Scout projects had been completed, including a pedestrian bridge over Heathcote Brook at the Cook Natural Area, a canoe dock, and benches in the Hopewell-Ewing section of the park. She said that Rockingham was expected to be moved in November or December.

Mrs. Nash commented on the exceptional job that the Department of Transportation did on the new decking of the Baker's Basin bridge over the canal. The Commissioners directed Mr. Amon to write to the Department and acknowledge their good work.

WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY REPORT

Mr. Shepherd said that the Water Supply Authority was currently dredging in five areas of the Canal Park, and that the use of the new excavator was a big help. He said that towpath restoration along Alexander Road was continuing, and that the Griggstown spillway rehabilitation would begin soon.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Amon announced that the Commission would hold a public hearing on August 23rd in Trenton regarding expansion of the "A" Review Zone in Trenton. He said that the staffs of Canal Park and Commission were working with a consultant on a Canal Diggers Memorial to be installed at Bull's Island. He also commented on the issue of broken bottles on the path in Trenton, and spoke to a city official about denying two liquor stores their licenses unless they addressed this issue; the official agreed to look into it. Mr. Amon said that the Somerset County Freeholders announced that they preferred retaining the one-lane bridge over the Millstone River in Griggstown, and have hired a consultant to research traffic problems at a regional level.

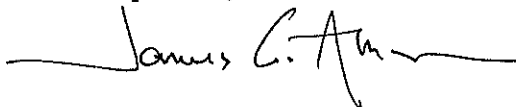
Mr. Weyl said that the Appellate Division denied the Meadows Foundation their request for a stay of construction for Castle Senior Living. He also said that Mr. Amon and he are meeting with representatives of Castle Senior Living and the Meadows Foundation to discuss a possible settlement.

PUBLIC FORUM

Mrs. Barth commented on the need of bicyclists to alert pedestrians that they are coming. She also asked about the status of installing mid-block crosswalks on roads that cross the Canal Park path. Mr. Amon said that he was currently discussing the issue with representatives of the Department of Transportation.

The meeting adjourned at 1:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James C. Amon", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

James. C. Amon