MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF JANUARY 19, 2000

TIME: 12:10 P.M. - 2:00 P.M.
DATE: Wednesday, January 19, 2000
PLACE: Canal Commission Office
Stockton, New Jersey

ATTENDING:
COMMISSIONERS: Messrs. Herzog, Pauley, Marshall, Torpey;
Ms. Armstrong and Mrs. Nash

STAFF: Mr. Amon and Ms. Holms
Ms. Barbara Conklin, Deputy Attorney General

GUESTS: Susan Herron, Superintendent, D&R Canal State Park
Becky Williams, Assistant Superintendent, D&R Canal State Park
Barbara Ross, D&R Canal Watch
Joe Shepherd, NJ Water Supply Authority
Chester DiLorenzo, Midstate Engineering
Pete Lanfrt, Briar Meadows
Lee Kaplan, Kabro of Millstone, LLC
Bill McKelvey, Canal Society of New Jersey
Bob Miller, Kabro of Millstone, LLC
Peggy Killmer, DVRPC
George Hawkins, Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association

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 December 15, 1999 meeting; Mr. Pauley seconded the motion. The motion passed without dissent, Ms. Armstrong abstaining.

ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN AND TREASURER

Mrs. Nash moved that Mr. Jessen serve as Vice-Chairman; Mr. Herzog seconded the motion. It passed unanimously. Mr. Pauley then moved that Mrs. Nash serve as Treasurer; Ms. Armstrong seconded the motion and it also passed unanimously.
REVIEW ZONE PROJECTS

Mr. Amon presented one “A” Zone application for approval.

00-2601 - Colon Residence at Highwood - Franklin Township, Somerset County

Mr. Amon said the applicant proposes to build a one-story single family house approximately 300 feet from the Canal Park, but that the building site is set back from the crest of a 20-foot bluff that would block view of the house from the Canal Park.

Mrs. Nash moved approval of the Colon Residence; Ms. Armstrong seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Amon then presented four “B” Zone projects for approval:

98-2139A - Rotor Clip Building Addition - Franklin Township, Somerset County
99-2513 - Briar Meadows - Franklin Township, Somerset County
98-2459 - Moto Business & Industrial Park - Millstone Township
99-2549 - Kabro of Millstone - Millstone Township

Mr. Amon said that the projects were reviewed by staff and found to be in compliance with the Commission’s regulations for stormwater management and stream corridor impact. In the case of Kabro of Millstone, Mr. Amon said the applicant proposed building a detention basin in the stream corridor. He said the current land use is agricultural and recommended that the basin be permitted to be in the stream corridor. Mr. Herzog moved approval of the “B” Zone applications; Mrs. Nash seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

CANAL PARK SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Ms. Herron reported that plans are being finalized to move Rockingham by the end of the year. She announced that three new employees have been hired—a maintenance worker, a naturalist, and a ranger trainee. She said that there was a suspected arson fire at the Lambertville boat dock.

REVIEW OF DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT

The Commissioners agreed that it was important to send the report out as soon as possible. Mr. Marshall offered help from Parks and Forestry staff to design the layout of the report.

OLD BUSINESS

The Commissioners discussed Mr. Amon’s draft guidelines for regulating cellular communication towers in the “A” Review Zone. Ms. Conklin advised the Commission to be careful in
distinguishing “guidelines” and “regulations.” The Commissioners suggested that Mr. Amon meet with the Commission’s Advisory Group and report back at February’s meeting.

Mr. Torpey reported on a successful meeting with Commissioner Shinn and other DEP representatives about the Commission’s Linkages Project created with Geographic Information System (computer mapping). Mr. Amon said that CD’s of the Canal Linkages “tour” were being prepared to distribute to the Commissioners, and that eventually it would be on a Canal Commission website.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Torpey said that a retreat was being planned for February or March, and that topics to be considered would be potential issues (such as cell tower regulations) that may come up in the future. After conducting the retreat, a public forum would then be held to discuss these issues with the general public.

PUBLIC FORUM

Mr. Hawkins spoke of the recent meeting held regarding the proposed Millstone Bypass, and the Stony Brook Millstone Watershed Association’s position on this issue. He felt that there may be better alternatives to the one proposed by DOT. He said that DOT will be reviewing alternative designs, but that the contractor hired by DOT to design the current proposal is also reviewing the alternatives, which could present a conflict of interest.

Ms. Killmer reported that the Millstone River is the worst polluted river in the Raritan River watershed, and that attention should be paid to preventing further degradation from non-point source pollution.

NEW JERSEY WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY REPORT

Mr. Shepherd reported that the Water Supply Authority is looking at bid proposals for work at the Five Mile Lock, including replacement of the waste gate, restoration of the spillway, and restoration of the towpath. He said that plans were underway to clean the Simonson Brook culvert, and path rehabilitation would resume between Alexander Road and the golf course in Princeton.

The meeting adjourned at 2:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

James C. Amon