



DELAWARE AND RARITAN
CANAL COMMISSION

MINUTES OF THE 2002 RETREAT

TIME: 9:30 AM – 12:00 PM
DATE: Wednesday, April 17, 2002
PLACE: Holcombe-Jimison Farm Museum
Lambertville, New Jersey

ATTENDING:

COMMISSIONERS: Messrs. Herzog, Jessen, and Torpey;
Ms. Armstrong and Mrs. Nash

STAFF: Mr. Amon and Ms. Holms

GUESTS:

Barbara Ross, D&R Canal Watch
Susan Herron, D&R Canal State Park
Vicky Chirco, D&R Canal State Park
Robert von Zumbusch

Ms. Vicki Chirco, Historic Preservation Specialist for the D&R Canal State Park, gave a presentation of the history of the D&R Canal using historic and present-day photographs. She also showed the Commissioners models of a lock and swing bridge that she uses in school presentations.

At the conclusion of Ms. Chirco's presentation, Mr. Torpey announced that this was a special meeting of the D&R Canal Commission and that all provisions of the Open Public Meeting Law of 1976 had been met.

Mr. Amon reviewed the Commission's Master Planning process, stating that the process has produced many planning documents, including the Design Guide, the Historic Structures Report, the Recreational and Historic Development Plan, the Master Plan, and a Development Plan which was produced in 1996. The 1996 Development Plan described 31 projects proposed to enhance the Canal Park. Mr. Amon said that the purpose of this retreat was to discuss some of the proposed projects to be included in a second edition of the Development Plan.

The first project that Mr. Amon presented was installation of two new parking areas in Mercer County—one off of Route 29 near Moore's Creek and one at Whitehead Road. Mrs. Nash suggested working with the Mercer County Planning Department's Director, Donna Lewis. Mr. Amon said that the proposed access at Moore's Creek was on a list of projects as part of the Route 29 Scenic Byway Program. Mr. Jessen suggested contacting Senator Torricelli's office for possible federal funding. He also suggested requiring DOT to build the parking areas as part of future DOT projects. Mr. Amon said that he had just recently learned that DOT is considering

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COMMISSIONERS: Frank J. Torpey, *Chairman*, Martin D. Jessen, *Vice-Chairman*, Winona D. Nash, *Treasurer*,

Bradley M. Campbell, Sam Herzog, Caroline S.J. Armstrong, Douglas H. Palmer

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: James C. Amon GOVERNOR: James E. McGreevey

improving the Route 29/I-95 interchange, which would be an appropriate project to request improved parking at Scudder's Falls.

Mr. Amon then suggested that the restoration of the Lambertville Outlet Lock be considered as another project to be included in the new Development Plan. It was suggested that the Commission contact the Lambertville Sewerage Authority, the city's Public Works Department, or the owner of the Lambertville Station for help with this project.

Mr. Amon asked the Commissioners for their comments regarding restoration of the Calhoun and Hanover Street canal houses. Ms. Herron said that the Trenton Redevelopment Corporation was considering using the Hanover Street house for an "artist-in-residence" program. The Commissioners suggested talking to Marty Johnson of Isles, Inc., or Bill Valocchi, and Jean Shaddow with the City of Trenton for their ideas on these projects. Ms. Ross suggested contacting Preservation New Jersey and putting the houses on their list of "endangered historic structures." Mr. Torpey suggested that the Commission produce its own list of endangered structures for the Canal Park.

Mr. Amon went on to discuss potential projects in South Bound Brook. He said that he has met with the Mayor. He also said that Dow Chemical has agreed to remove an eight-foot-tall fence and rehabilitate a former industrial site next to the Canal Park. Mr. Amon said that he has asked PSE&G to remove a free-standing gas pipeline that crosses the canal in South Bound Brook. The Commissioners discussed how best to remove poison ivy in the area. Mr. Shepherd said that the Water Supply Authority would not be averse to applying an herbicide topically, but that it would be labor intensive. It was suggested that volunteers be recruited to do this. Mr. von Zumbusch suggested contacting the Millstone Valley Preservation Coalition.

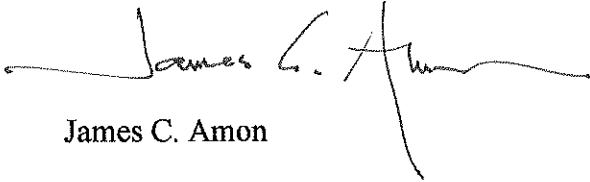
Another proposed Development Plan project discussed was to promote the continuity of the Canal Park. Mr. Amon said there are only two places in the entire park that prevent it from being continuous. One is the 1¼ miles of canal that is under Route One between Old Rose and Mulberry Streets in Trenton, and the other is the Route One crossing in Lawrence Township. He said that construction of a pedestrian bridge over Route One is expected to be completed in 2003. Ms. Herron said that funds for resurfacing the towpath in Lawrence Township were presently frozen because of the budget shortfall, and that these funds should be made available and the towpath resurfaced. Mr. Torpey suggested forming a sub-committee for the continuity project. Mr. Amon suggested meeting with Mark Matsil, the new Assistant Commissioner for Natural Resources.

Mr. Torpey then spoke about how the Commission could interact with several ongoing initiatives, including the Crossroads of the American Revolution. Mr. Amon said that one of the goals of this initiative was to create a National Heritage Corridor that would follow one of the routes that Washington's troops used during the American Revolution, which included the Canal Park. Mr. Amon said that should a National Heritage Corridor Commission be created, the Canal Commission should be represented on it.

Mr. Amon then asked the Commissioners for comments on a canal boat ride. Mr. Jessen suggested that the Canal Park have a pontoon boat that could carry 12 to 15 passengers. He thought that Lambertville would be a good place to have the ride, but that the boat would be portable so that it could be used elsewhere in the park. Mr. Torpey said that a sub-committee should be formed to discuss this idea further.

The retreat ended at 12:00 noon.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "James C. Amon". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

James C. Amon