

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF JANUARY 18, 2006

TIME:

10:10 - 10:45 AM

DATE:

Wednesday, January 18, 2006

PLACE:

Canal Commission Office

Stockton, New Jersey

ATTENDING:

COMMISSIONERS: Vice-Chairman Jessen, Messrs. Albert, Knights, Loos; Ms. Mitchell and Ms. Shaddow (representing Mayor Palmer)

STAFF: Mr. Hahn, Ms. Guru and Ms. Holms

Mr. Lewin Weyl, Deputy Attorney General

GUESTS:

Susan Herron, D&R Canal State Park
Vicki Chirco, D&R Canal State Park
Stephanie Fox, D&R Canal State Park
Bill Bogosian, NJ Water Supply Authority
Sharmila Rahman, NJ Water Supply Authority
Aimer Garcia, NJ Water Supply Authority
Joe Shepherd, NJ Water Supply Authority
Robert H. Barth, Canal Society of New Jersey

Vice-Chairman Jessen 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 OF THE MEETING OF DECEMBER 21, 2005

Mr. Loos moved approval of the minutes of the meeting of December 21, 2005;

Mr. Albert seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

REVIEW ZONE APPLICATIONS

Mr. Hahn presented the following "A" Zone applications for review and approval:

05-3287 - Stone Armor Replacement of Stockton Breach - Stockton Borough

05-3322 Bishop/Tetelman Garage Replacement - Hopewell Township

05-3255 - Rehabilitation of 6-Barrel Waste Gate at Station 122+00 - Delaware Township

05-3269 - Shah Residence - Franklin Township

NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
Richard J. Codey, Acting Governor Bradley M. Campbell, Commissioner

With regard to the stone armor repair project, Mr. Albert asked whether more stone would be used to shore up the floodguard embankment in Stockton than what had previously been there. Ms. Rahman of the Water Supply Authority replied that the proposed project would only replace what had been there before the April flood.

Mr. Knights moved approval of the "A" Zone applications, Mr. Loos seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Hahn presented the following "B" Zone applications for review and approval:

05-3177 - Commerce Court Warehouse - South Brunswick Township

05-3251 - Four Seasons at Princeton - Princeton Township

05-3202 - Laurelton Belmont Subdivision - Kingwood Township

05-3249 - Magic Marker Site - City of Trenton

Mr. Albert moved approval of the "B" Zone applications, Mr. Knights seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Hahn reported on staff activities for the preceding month, stating that 10 applications were reviewed and found to be deficient, 8 were reviewed and declared complete for Commission action, and 14 were found to be exempt from Commission review and approval. He also said that Ms. Holms conducted 6 field inspections. Ms. Holms reported that she discovered a project under construction in Kingwood Township that had not received Commission approval. The township has issued a "cease and desist" order to the applicant, and the applicant has agreed to send plans for review by the Commission staff.

Mr. Hahn updated the Commissioners on a billboard in Lawrence Township that had been erected without Commission approval. He said the applicant has offered to lower the billboard by 20 feet, thereby satisfying the Commission's regulatory standards for visual impact. Mr. Loos said that the billboard should be taken down until the Commission has taken formal action on the application. Several of the Commissioners felt that the billboard's advertisement should, minimally, be covered until the Commission has approved the project. Mr. Loos moved a resolution requiring the applicant to remove advertisements on the billboard until the Commission has taken formal action on the application. Mr. Albert seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

CANAL PARK SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Ms. Herron reported that there have been numerous complaints from residents in the Glen Afton neighborhood in Trenton about ATV activity along the canal's path. She said that ranger presence has been increased in that area. She said that the Park staff is working on improving the grounds at the new office, especially with regard to parking areas. She said the Bull's Island campgrounds would open on April 1st.

WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY REPORT

Mr. Shepherd reported on various winter maintenance activities, including further floodguard repair work in Stockton, tree debris removal, and brush-hogging.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Loos suggested that the Commission submit financial disclosure statements. Mr. Hahn said he would send the Commissioners the necessary paperwork.

Mr. Albert suggested using time saved from describing projects at meetings to discuss specific issues regarding the Canal Park, such as the Delaware River's Wild and Scenic designation. Mr. Hahn asked the Commissioners to make suggestions for discussion topics at February's meeting.

Mr. Barth congratulated the Commission on its goals of protecting and promoting the historic character of the Canal Park, especially with regard to encouraging the building of swing bridges. He also asked whether the Commission would consider scheduling a retreat. Mr. Albert agreed with Mr. Barth that a retreat was a good idea.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Loos moved adjournment of the meeting; Mr. Knights seconded the motion. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 10:45 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Emut Phahn

Ernest P. Hahn

Secretary