

DELAWARE AND RARITAN CANAL COMMISSION

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 13, 2006

TIME:

1:05 - 2:00 PM

DATE:

Wednesday, September 13, 2006

PLACE:

Canal Commission Office

Stockton, New Jersey

ATTENDING:

COMMISSIONERS: Chairman David DelVecchio, Messrs. David

Knights, Martin Jessen, John Loos, Al Payne, and Richard Albert;

Mayor Phyllis Marchand

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

Mr. Lewin Weyl, Deputy Attorney General

GUESTS:

Bill Corboy

Maury Tome

Vicki Chirco, D&R Canal State Park

Barbara Ross, D&R Canal Watch

James Sanocki

Mike and Anne Kruimer, East Coast Greenway

Chairman DelVecchio 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. He said descriptions of the applications deemed complete for review had been posted on the Commission's website.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF AUGUST 16, 2006

Mr. Albert moved approval of the meeting of August 16, 2006; Mr. Jessen seconded the motion. Messrs. Albert, Jessen and DelVecchio voted in favor of the motion; Messrs. Knights and Payne abstained. Mr. Weyl pointed out that the Commission required five "aye" votes for a motion to pass; the motion was therefore tabled until the next meeting.

REVIEW ZONE APPLICATIONS

Mr. Jessen moved approval with condition of the following "A" Zone applications:

06-3405 - Corboy Reconstruction - Hopewell Township

06-3403 - Stranieri Addition - Hopewell Township

06-1885B - McAteers Restaurant Improvements - Franklin Township (conditioned upon receipt of county approval)

NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Jon Corzine, Governor

Lisa P. Jackson, Commissioner

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Mr. Knights seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Jessen then moved approval with conditions of the following "B" Zone applications:

05-3213 - Micro Stamping Corporation - Franklin Township

06-2430B - South River Park Comfort Suites - Cranbury Township

06-3412 - Mitchell Gordeuk Minor Subdivision - Kingwood Township

Conditions: 1) Any construction on the lots created by this subdivision will require full review and approval by the D&R Canal Commission for Stormwater and Stream Corridor Impac, either once the total cumulative impervious cover exceeds 1 acre, or whatever the regulatory threshold is at the time of the application. 2) receipt of county approval.

Mr. Albert seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Loos and Mayor Marchand joined the meeting at 1:10 PM.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Hahn reported the monthly workload of the Commission's staff; the staff reviewed 16 projects and found them deficient, 7 projects found to be complete, 5 exemptions, 1 maintenance project, 1 subdivision, and 1 jurisdictional determination. Mr. Hahn also reported on the status of amendments to the Regulations. He distributed a rough outline of key changes to the Commissioners.

Mr. Hahn presented a policy proposal to the Commission regarding flood mitigation applications by single-family homeowners. He said there have been several applications by residents which involved raising their homes to prevent flooding, and the applicants had asked for expedited review and approval. He asked the Commissioners to consider passing a resolution allowing him to approve these projects as maintenance projects which would not require formal Commission action. Mr. Weyl suggested that the regulations be amended to allow for this provision. The Commissioners agreed with Mr. Weyl's suggestion.

Mr. Hahn then described some of the new regulation proposals. Mr. Albert asked whether there would be a public meeting; Mr. Hahn said that a public meeting is required once a final draft has been submitted to the New Jersey Register, but that he would also schedule a public meeting before that time so that comments could be more easily incorporated. Mr. Loos expressed concern that more staff time would be required to ensure compliance with the new rules.

D&R CANAL STATE PARK REPORT

Ms. Chirco, Historian for the Canal Park, distributed the latest newsletter, and reported that New Jersey Audubon Society has designated the Canal Park an Important Bird Area. She also reported that a shooting occurred in the Park at Old Rose Street in Trenton. Ms. Chirco said that approximately 100 student volunteers from Princeton Day School worked at the headquarters' arboretum. She also reported that PSE&G has begun work to bury their gas pipeline in South Bound Brook.

SANOCKI RESIDENCE CONCEPT DISCUSSION (DRCC #06-3356)

Mr. Hahn summarized the review and discussion at August's meeting of a proposal to build a 3-level house on Route 29 in Ewing Township, across from the Canal Park. Mr. Sanocki said he was looking for direction from the Commission to revise his plans, and proposed a 1-story house (2 levels), possibly as a Cape Cod. Mr. Albert asked about the colors of the roof and siding; Mr. Sanocki said they would be neutral tones to blend with the natural landscape. The Commissioners said they did not object to the concept of a 1-story Cape Cod. Mr. Weyl suggested submitting a more detailed concept plan.

PUBLIC FORUM

Mr. Loos said that the beetle release program to eradicate the invasive purple loosestrife along the canal appeared to be successful, and encouraged the Commission and the Division to expand the program to cover more of the Park. He distributed a new Eco-Heritage Tourism Map of Franklin Township that he designed which features the Canal Park.

The meeting adjourned at 2:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Emut | Halm

Ernest P. Hahn