



DELAWARE AND RARITAN
CANAL COMMISSION

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF FEBRUARY 21, 2007

TIME: 10:05 AM – 11:25 AM
DATE: Wednesday, February 21, 2007
PLACE: Canal Commission Office
Stockton, New Jersey

ATTENDING:

COMMISSIONERS: Chairman David DelVecchio, Messrs. Martin Jessen
John Loos, Jose Fernandez, Richard Albert, David Knights;
Ms. Alison Mitchell

STAFF: Mr. Hahn, Ms. Guru and Ms. Holms;
Mr. Lewin Weyl, Deputy Attorney General

GUESTS:

Joe Shepherd, NJ Water Supply Authority
Bill Bogosian, NJ Water Supply Authority
Barbara Ross, D&R Canal Watch
Vicki Chirco, D&R Canal State Park
Susan Herron, D&R Canal State Park
Mike Kruimer, East Coast Greenway
Anne Kruimer, East Coast Greenway
Robert H. Barth, Canal Society of New Jersey

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.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF JANUARY 17, 2007

Mr. Loos moved approval of the minutes of the meeting of January 17, 2007; Mr. Jessen seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

REVIEW ZONE APPLICATIONS

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

07-1623A – Holcombe Jimison Farm Corn Crib – Delaware Township
07-2092C – Lambertville Station Outdoor Bar Expansion - Lambertville
07-3549 - Conrail Bridge Removal, Borough of South Bound Brook

NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
Jon Corzine, Governor Lisa P. Jackson, Commissioner

PRALLSVILLE MILLS 33 RISLER STREET P.O. BOX 539 STOCKTON, NJ 08559-0539
609-397-2000 FAX 609-397-1081 www.dandrcanal.com

A discussion ensued regarding the removal of the Conrail Bridge in South Bound Brook. Mr. Hahn said that the proposed bridge removal is part of a flood control project. Ms. Guru said that the installation of a flood control gate would result in 1-2" higher waters during a flood event in the Raritan River, and by removing the pilings for the bridge, the water elevation would maintain the present water level.

Mr. Kruimer felt that the Commission should oppose the project, because the bridge has the potential to be a great connector for bicyclists and pedestrians from the Canal Park to Bound Brook, Johnson Park, and Middlesex Borough in Middlesex County. He said that the bridge is structurally sound and only needs new decking, and according to his information, the pilings would only raise the water level by $\frac{3}{4}$ " in a 100-year flood.

Mr. Albert asked where the nearest bridge across the Raritan River was located; Ms. Holms replied that it was approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ mile from the railroad bridge.

Mr. Barth felt that this was an important historic structure that should not be demolished.

Mr. Loos said he was reluctant to approve the demolition. He asked whether it would be possible to build a pedestrian bridge across the Raritan River as mitigation, and wished to see a bicycle circulation plan for Middlesex County.

Chairman DelVecchio said this project gave residents in the area hope that flooding may be mitigated.

Ms. Mitchel questioned whether this solution was a good one in terms of an overall effort at flood control in the area. Ms. Guru said that part of the project included buyouts in the area, and that the location of the flood control gate was determined by the number of people that would be affected by it.

The Commissioners agreed to return to the discussion after voting on the other two A Zone applications. Ms. Mitchell moved approval of the Holcombe-Jimison Farm Corn Crib and the Lambertville Station Outdoor Bar Expansion; Mr. Loos seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Mr. Loos then moved denial without prejudice the Conrail Bridge Removal; Ms. Mitchell seconded the motion. Mr. Loos and Ms. Mitchell voted in favor of the motion; Messrs. Fernandez, Knights, DelVecchio, Albert and Jessen opposed the motion. The motion did not carry. Mr. Knights then moved approval of the Conrail Bridge removal; Mr. Albert seconded the motion. Messrs. Fernandez, Knights, DelVecchio, Albert and Jessen voted in favor of the motion; Ms. Mitchel and Mr. Loos voted against. The motion carried.

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

06-2436T BMS Entry & Guardhouse, Hopewell Township
06-3409 Hickory Corner Retail Center, East Windsor Township
04-3094 Rocky Hill Estates, Monroe Township
07-3463 Twins Gate Homes Subdivision, Monroe Township

06-3447 W. Windsor-Plainsboro H.S. North Track & Field Improvements, Plainsboro Township
07-3462 Johnson Farm Subdivision, Montgomery Township
07-3463 Twins Gate Homes, Monroe Township

Mr. Albert seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Hahn reported that the staff has almost finalized new draft Regulations. He said that Deputy Attorney General Weyl was looking into the feasibility of general approval authorizations. He said that he would distribute the draft to the Commissioners once completed.

CANAL PARK SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Herron reported that camping at Bull's Island would open on April 1st, but that only 21 sites would be open, down from 69, because of last summer's flood. Mr. Loos asked about camping at Six Mile Run Reservoir; Ms. Herron replied that the area is not technically part of the Canal Park, it is only managed by Canal Park staff.

Mr. Fernandez thanked the Bull's Island staff for their cleanup efforts after the flood.

WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY REPORT

Mr. Shepherd reported that the Authority would begin dredging at the Prallsville railroad bridge, and that annual maintenance at the Island Farm weir has begun. He said that repair of the stem operators at Kingston has been completed.

PUBLIC FORUM

Mr. Barth reiterated that he felt the Raritan River railroad bridge an important historic structure that shouldn't be demolished. Mr. Kruimer said that bridges are the number one concern for bicyclists and pedestrians. Mr. Kruimer also offered to enlist volunteers to help build a simple walkway over the Landing Lane Spillway. Ms. Roth asked about the status of restoring the East Millstone Canal House; Mr. Hahn said that the Division of Parks and Forestry and the State Historic Preservation Office were looking at revised plans for the restoration.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2007

Mr. Loos moved approval of the nomination of Marty Jessen as Vice-Chair; Mr. Knights seconded the motion. The motion passed. Chairman DelVecchio then moved approval of the nomination of John Loos as Treasurer; Ms. Mitchel seconded the motion. The motion passed.

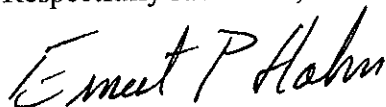
MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2007

Mr. Knights moved approval of the meeting schedule for Canal Commission meetings to be held on the third Wednesday of each month at 10:00 AM. Mr. Loos seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Jessen moved approval to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing litigation with PSE&G. Mr. Loos seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. The Commission entered Executive Session at 11:10.

The public meeting reconvened and adjourned at 11:25 AM.

Respectfully submitted,



Ernest P. Hahn
Secretary