



DELAWARE AND RARITAN
CANAL COMMISSION

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF APRIL 16, 2008

TIME: 10:05 AM – 11:30 AM
DATE: Wednesday, April 16, 2008
PLACE: Canal Commission Office
Stockton, New Jersey

ATTENDING:

COMMISSIONERS: Chairman David DelVecchio, Messrs. Martin Jessen,
John Loos, David Knights, Richard Albert, and Al Payne

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

GUESTS:

Bill Bogosian, NJ Water Supply Authority
Mike Kruimer, East Coast Greenway
Anne Kruimer, East Coast Greenway
Joe Shepherd, NJ Water Supply Authority
Barbara Ross, D&R Canal Watch
Vicki Chirco, D&R Canal State Park
Joe Gorman, PR&A
Steve Morland, PR&A
Joesph Giddings, CME Associates
Louis Ploskonna, CME Associates
Robert Barth, Canal Society of New Jersey
Barbara Ross, Canal Watch
Neil L. Blitz, Plainsboro Township
Robert Sheehan, Plainsboro Township
Robert von Zumbusch
Mark Lascavage, CME Associates
Jack Morris, CME Associates

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 FEBRUARY 20, 2008 AND MARCH 19, 2008

Mr. Jessen moved approval of the minutes of the meetings of February 20 and March 19, 2008; Mr. Albert seconded the motion. Ms. Holms noted that the March meeting minutes listed Linda Barth as being in attendance which was in error. With that correction, the motion passed unanimously.

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

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REVIEW ZONE ACTIONS

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

08-3641 Mostach Restaurant Signs and Vent Relocation, City of Lambertville
08-3441 Evans Antique Store Marquis, City of Lambertville
08-3637 Moses Shed Replacement, City of Lambertville
08-3630 Becker Home Improvements, City of Lambertville
08-3629 Hamilton Kitchen Renovation, City of Lambertville
08-3643 Marro Garage Replacement, City of Lambertville
08-1995A Messina Shed, Stockton Borough
08-2580A Griffin Guest House, Stockton Borough
08-3639 Maccia Privacy Fence, Stockton Borough
08-3636 I-287/Easton Avenue Interchange Improvements, Franklin Township
08-3640 Gough Residence, Ewing Township
08-3638 Metro PCS Antennas (West State Street), City of Trenton

Mr. Albert seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

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

06-3421 Ewing Independent Living, Ewing Township
08-2626C B Circle Office Building, Lawrence Township
07-3529 Raia Self Storage, Hillsborough Township
04-3080 L'Oreal Warehouse Expansion, Franklin Township

Mr. Jessen seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Loos joined that meeting at 10:07 AM.

Mr. Jessen moved approval of the project DRCC #07-3589, Carnegie Center West, Building 701, in West Windsor Township. Mr. Payne seconded the motion and it passed without dissent, with Mr. Knights abstaining.

Mr. Jessen then moved approval of the final "B" Zone project application, DRCC #07-3600, Capital Health System Hospital in Hopewell Township. Mr. Loos seconded the motion. Chairman DelVecchio expressed his disappointment that Capital Health System was leaving the City of Trenton, stating that the city's residents will be at a loss due to lack of adequate transportation to medical facilities. Messrs. Albert and Loos concurred, stating that although they felt this was a wrong move, it was not a basis to deny the application. After further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Hahn reported the monthly staff workload. He said the Commission's rules proposal was still under review by DEP. He said the proposed State budget for Fiscal Year 2009 has language stating that the Canal Commission will become a fee-based program. He said the budget includes

Bull's Island as one of several State facilities proposed for closure.

Mr. Hahn reported on several Canal Park activities, in lieu of the Superintendent's Report. He said the towpath on the main canal from Landing Lane Bridge to East Millstone has been resurfaced. He said an impressive cleanup had been undertaken by Park staff in conjunction with The College of New Jersey, between Calhoun and Prospect Streets in Trenton. He said he would be meeting with PSE&G representatives to discuss relocation of the approved monopole at Five Mile Lock. Mr. Hahn also reported on the progress of the proposed handicapped access ramp for the multi-use path at Washington Crossing State Park, and that the proposed path between Lock 1 and Lock 2 was under construction. Mr. Payne said that the contract to restore the Calhoun Street Canal House was put out to bid.

WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY REPORT

Mr. Shepherd said that the Authority was repairing the towpath between Mulberry Street and Whitehead Road, and between Scudder's Falls and Washington Crossing State Park. He said stump removal was also ongoing.

PUBLIC FORUM

Mr. Barth asked whether boat launches would be closed as part of the budget proposal. Mr. Payne replied that nothing has been finalized. Mr. Barth asked whether the Commission could oppose the closing of the Park.

Mr. Loos said that parks were critical to the health of the people of the State of New Jersey, and in his opinion, \$4.5 million to pay for these parks was a small amount of money compared to an overall State budget of \$33 billion. He felt that, as a public policy, it was wrong.

Mr. Weyl advised the Commissioners to express their opinions about the proposed park closures as individuals, rather than collectively.

Ms. Ross said that a coalition of non-profit environmental organizations known as "Keep It Green" is holding a rally on April 23 at 12:30 on the Statehouse steps to keep the parks open.

Mr. Barth announced that History Day would be held on May 3rd at Washington Crossing State Park.

Mr. Kruimer said he has received several favorable comments from bicyclists about the new towpath surface.

MAPLETON ROAD IMPROVEMENTS – CONCEPT DISCUSSION

Mr. Hahn described a project application to make improvements to Mapleton Road, a roadway that closely parallels the canal. The improvements would involve the stretch of road between Route One in Plainsboro Township and the Plainsboro/South Brunswick border near Seminary Place. Presently, the road is two lanes, 22 feet wide, with no shoulders. In addition to the canal, it is bordered by wetlands, steep slopes, and rock outcroppings. He said it is subject to flooding

and icing in winter. The icing requires a significant amount of salt, which eventually goes into the canal.

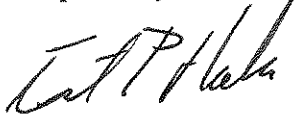
Plainsboro Township is proposing to re-pave and re-crown the roadway. The project also involves repairing existing outfalls to the canal; no new outfalls are proposed. Bio-retention swales will be installed next to the road. Finally, the Township is proposing to add two 4-foot bike lanes, immediately adjacent to the road.

The Commissioners asked why a separate bike path, apart from the roadway, couldn't be installed. Engineers for the project explained that wetlands and rock outcroppings prevented the location of a bikeway separate from the road. Mr. Hahn said he felt that adding 8 feet of pavement to the road would change the historic and rural character of the road. Mr. Albert questioned the need for the bike path. Mr. Blitz, Superintendent of Public Works for the Township, said that the proposed bike path was part of the Township's overall circulation plan. Mr. Loos said that a bike loop utilizing the towpath and a new paved path was a good idea. He suggested other location alternatives, such as moving the road and putting the path on the western side of the road. Mr. Payne said the main reason the path was not located away from the road was due to cost. Mr. Jessen said putting bike lanes next to the road would be more dangerous. Ms. Ross said that with the exception of two rock outcroppings, there is presently room for the path apart from the road. Mr. von Zumbusch said that the Historic and Recreational Development Plan, part of the D&R Canal State Park Master Plan, recommends a path along the opposite side of Mapleton Road, but goes on to say that any increase in the width of Mapleton Road will have an adverse impact on the Canal Park and is thus not recommended. He said that widening would destroy the historic character of the road. He also said that he supports improvements to the road for drainage purposes. Mr. Barth said that speeds on the road will skyrocket if the road is widened.

After further discussion, Mr. Hahn asked the applicant to provide further justification for the construction of the bike path, and suggested meeting onsite with the Division of Parks and Forestry, the State Historic Preservation Office, and Division of Freshwater Wetlands.

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 AM.

Respectfully submitted,



Ernest P. Hahn
Secretary