

Minutes of Meeting

DATE: March 20, 1975
TIME: 12:00 - 2:00 PM
LOCATION: Blue Room, Labor & Industry Building, Trenton, New Jersey

ATTENDING:

COMMISSION--Mrs. Lee Bullitt, Mr. Joseph Burns, Mr. Martin Jessen, Mr. Donald Jones, Mr. Benjamin Kirkland, Mr. Frank Torpey and Mr. David Bardin
DEP--Mr. Alfred Guido and Mrs. Barbara Levin
ATTORNEY GENERAL--Jonathan Weiner
GUESTS--Mr. Arthur Holland and Mr. James Sayen
ABSENT WITH CAUSE--None
ABSENT WITHOUT CAUSE--None

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Kirkland at about 12:20 PM. While the meeting was in progress, a sandwich lunch was provided by the Department.

The final text of the Commission's bylaws was distributed and reviewed.

Mr. Kirkland asked Mr. Guido to present any departmental matters concerning the canal that would be of interest to the Commission. Mr. Guido, at the request of Mr. A. Dix Skillman, distributed to all Commissioners three letters concerning Mr. Skillman's lease agreements with the Department. (Copies of the letters are attached to these minutes.) Background on the Mason canoe rental question and the Skillman lease were presented in detail by Mrs. Bullitt and Mr. Guido. Mr. Guido presented an on-site inspection report including recommendations by the Bureau of Parks that the Mason permit application not be approved by the Department. Mr. Guido said he would probably accept this recommendation.

Discussion of the relation of the Department and the Commission on these matters followed. With the advice of legal counsel, it was agreed that unless the Department approved such a permit the Commission has no responsibility under the Act to review the application or the Department's action. At a later date, when the Commission has adopted a master plan, this situation might change in certain circumstances where the Commission feels the Department has acted contrary to the recommendations of the plan.

It was decided that all such matters will be left to the Department unless the Act specifies the Commission's involvement.

The next item raised was the problem of the Commission's review of a proposed development project in Franklin Township. It was decided that the Commission would request Franklin Township to continue its moratorium on construction projects in the canal area.

Several Commissioners suggested ways of delineating the review zone on a temporary basis and the role of public hearings in establishing the zone. One suggestion included the use of some of the \$50,000 appropriated to the Commission to conduct a quick study which would provide the Commission with a preliminary review zone.

It was finally requested that Mr. Guido prepare a reply to the Franklin Township notice indicating that the Commission was not yet in a position to exercise its full powers because the review zone had not been established.

Pending the delineation of the review zone, all future notifications will receive a similar response.

Mr. Kirkland assigned Mr. Burns the task of reviewing the Commission's position in these matters and of suggesting how they should be handled.

The next major topic of discussion was the hiring of the Commission's executive director. Several Commissioners suggested the types of education, experience, skills and personality that might be best suited to the job. Mr. Kirkland established a subcommittee of the Commission to draw up a job description. Appointed to the subcommittee were Mrs. Bullitt, Mr. Sayen, Mr. Jones and Mr. Torpey.

Mr. Kirkland said he would like to represent the Commission at meetings of the Department's Canal Coordinating Committee.

The Commissioners requested the Department to prepare a tour of the canal for the Commission on April 12. (This date was changed to April 5 shortly after the meeting.)

The next regular meeting of the Commission will be at 3:00 PM, April 17, in the Blue Room of the Labor & Industry Building in Trenton.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara W. Levin

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Acting Secretary

Letters attached.