

DELAWARE AND RARITAN CANAL COMMISSION

Minutes of Meeting

DATE: May 1, 1975
TIME: 12:30 - 3:00 PM
LOCATION: Holiday Inn, Trenton, New Jersey

ATTENDING:

COMMISSION--Mrs. Lee Bullitt, Mr. Joseph Burns, Mr. Martin Jessen, Mr. Donald Jones and Mr. Benjamin Kirkland
DEP--Mr. Alfred Guido and Mrs. Barbara Levin
ATTORNEY GENERAL--Jonathan Weiner
GUESTS--Mr. Arthur Holland; Mr. Eugene Schneider and Mr. Edward Hindin (MUSTO)
ABSENT WITH CAUSE--Mr. David Bardin and Mr. Frank Torpey
ABSENT WITHOUT CAUSE--None

Hamilton Marshes

The letter of Mr. Frederick T. Bogdan, Supervising Engineer of the Department of Transportation, to Mr. Kirkland regarding the proposed highway construction in the area of the canal was presented for discussion.

Mr. Guido described the history and present status of these developments. He assured the Commission that no immediate action was required by the Commission because other environmental review procedures and alternative routes still under consideration will prevent construction from proceeding for some time to come.

Mr. Kirkland will prepare a response to the letter.

At some meeting in the near future, Mr. Guido will make a presentation on this problem including aerials, maps, etc.

Master Plan and Review Zone

The review zone could be drawn by using local zoning ordinances, subdivision regulations and master plans. Where these controls fail to protect the canal to the Commission's satisfaction, additional critical area criteria could be drawn up.

The zone should be called interim and, as long as it is soundly based, it will be likely to stand up in court largely because: (1) it is only temporary, (2) it permits the Commission to carry out its legislated responsibility of protecting the canal, and (3) it serves to notify the affected communities that this is a possible review zone and it forms the basis for discussions with these communities as to the final delineation of the zone.

The boundaries of the zone can be described and mapped by using physical boundaries such as highways.

Since the review zone will be delineated to protect the functions of the canal park, it is important to begin with a determination of these values in the form of a "temporary" master plan. This can be done by incorporating a description of the present status of the following items mentioned in NJSA 13:13A-13b:

1. water supply
2. recreational activities
3. existing historical sites and potential restorations
4. range of uses and potential uses of the canal in the urban environment
5. designated wilderness areas

Mr. Guido offered to investigate the problem of a suitable scale for a base map (or maps) for the park and the review zone. Mr. Guido will also compile information needed for the interim master plan.

Mr. Schneider offered to prepare a procedural guide for the Commission. At the May 15th meeting he will present an outline of the guide's contents for the Commission to review.

Contact with Municipalities and Counties

Mr. Schneider will prepare a draft press release to notify local governmental units of the Commission's work on the review zone. Mr. Weiner will prepare a draft of a letter to each municipality and county informing of much the same thing.

These will be ready for the Commission to review on May 15.

Mr. Jessen will contact the Department of Transportation to familiarize himself with the highway development in the Hamilton Marsh area.

Officers

Mr. Kirkland raised the question of electing the Commission's Vice-Chairman and Treasurer. The Commissioners present felt that Mr. Kirkland should have the right to choose people with whom he will find it most convenient to work. This matter will be taken up at the May 15 meeting.