

DELAWARE AND RARITAN CANAL COMMISSION
25 Calhoun Street
Trenton, NJ 08618

MINUTES OF MEETING

DATE: July 30, 1975
TIME: 2:30 - 4:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Red Room, Labor & Industry Building, Trenton, NJ

ATTENDING:

COMMISSION-- Mrs. Lee Bullitt, Mr. Martin Jessen, Mr. Donald Jones,
Mr. Benjamin Kirkland, Mr. James Sayen, Mr. Frank Torpey,
Mr. Ian Walker
DEP-- Mr. Alfred T. Guido and Mrs. Barbara Levin
ATTORNEY GENERAL-- Jonathan Weiner
GUESTS-- Mr. Peter McLaughlin, City of Trenton; Mr. Herbert Simmens,
Executive Director Designate; Mr. Sidney Ytkin, DEP Director
of Administration
ABSENT WITH CAUSE-- Mr. Joseph Burns, Mayor Arthur Holland

Minutes of July 17 meeting

The minutes of the July 17th meeting were unanimously approved as recorded.

Executive Director

Mr. Simmens asked to address the Commission. He expressed his feelings that he would not accept the position of executive director if the salary were not restored to the \$23,000 originally offered. In addition, due to recent events he felt he would have to re-evaluate his situation and consider whether or not he would accept the position even if the salary is restored. Mr. Simmens also raised the question of residency. He said he proposed to live in the canal house at 25 Calhoun Street and spend his free time in Philadelphia. He hoped this arrangement would be to the satisfaction of the Commission. Following a brief discussion of these matters with the Commission, Mr. Simmens left.

Mr. Sidney Ytkin was then asked to brief the Commission on the status of Mr. Simmens' employment. He said that the papers had been recalled for re-evaluation by the Budget Bureau as to the salary to be offered Mr. Simmens. Mr. Ytkin said he was going to meet with the Deputy Treasurer to explain the Commission's decisions and to request that the

prior decision to reduce the salary be changed. It was agreed by the Commission to let Mr. Ytkin see what he could do and if at any time he felt it would help to have the Commission take some action he would let Mr. Kirkland know.

Executive Director's Residency

Mr. Kirkland raised for discussion the question of residency. It was agreed that at no time had the Commission indicated to Mr. Simmens that he could live out of state while employed as executive director. It was suggested that residency outside New Jersey would open the executive director and the Commission to the possibility of serious problems of a political and public confidence nature and, because of the distance implied, open to question whether the executive director would be able to devote the time necessary to fulfill his responsibilities if he had a lengthy commuting distance to his home.

For both these reasons, it was proposed that the terms of employment be clarified. Mr. Sayen proposed the following resolution: The Executive Director shall be a resident of New Jersey and maintain a residence in reasonable proximity to the canal. This motion was seconded by Mr. Jessen and all Commissioners present and voting unanimously concurred.

Budget

Mr. Guido requested that the Commission determine what it would like to request as its budget for the 1976 fiscal year. It was agreed that the total budget request would be for \$169,000. This total was broken down into the following items:

PROPOSED BUDGET--FY76

Master Plan		\$ 50,000
Review Zone		50,000
Salaries and Office Expense		69,000
Executive Director	\$23,000	
Secretary	10,000	
Office	17,000	
Draftsman	9,000	
Printing	10,000	
	TOTAL	<u>\$169,000</u>

Mr. Torpey moved that the budget be adopted as proposed, Mr. Jessen seconded the motion and all Commissioners present and voting concurred.

Millstone Floodplain Acquisition Program

Commissioner Bardin has designated the Millstone Project as a D&R Canal Project because the lands acquired will be part of the Canal Park. He has requested that the Commission approve the program before further acquisitions are made by the Department. Mr. Guido presented the project map to the Commission and suggested that a working committee of the Commission meet and review the program in detail. The Commission agreed and set August 16 as the time when as many Commissioners as are able will meet at Mrs. Bullitt's house on Canal Road in Franklin Township at 10:00 a.m. Mr. Guido will arrange to have a project map available for the Commission to use and someone from the Department, possibly the negotiator working on this project, on hand to answer questions.

Mr. Kirkland asked Mrs. Levin to notify Mr. Burns of the meeting.

Franklin Township

Mr. Torpey reported that he had tried to call Mr. Consovoy of the Planning Board but without success. He finally sent him a note explaining the Commission's position and he is still awaiting a response.

It was confirmed that no official decision had been made by the Commission regarding the Girl Scout project. The letter sent to the Township by Mrs. Bullitt had been misinterpreted.

Mr. Torpey will try to speak to Mr. Consovoy regarding the Commission's possible schedule for preparing a master plan. This will be done informally and not put in writing.

Canal Lands

Mr. Guido reviewed two matters before the Department.

1. Bakers Basin--a proposal by DOT to cross the canal in the area of Route 1 just south of I-295 was reviewed. More information must be provided by DOT, but it was the feeling of the Commission that no crossings should be permitted.
2. Golden Nugget Flea Market--proposes to acquire some railroad property and exchange it for some canal lands. The lands owned by the railroad are between Route 29 and the canal; the canal lands are on the opposite side of Route 29. When the details of this exchange are in hand, they will be presented to the Commission for their review and approval.

Somerset County Bicentennial Bike Path

The Department does not view this proposal favorably because: (1) the path would have to be brought up to standard at considerable cost; (2) this would encourage use by motorbikes and discourage use by hikers; (3) the Department does not view favorably any single purpose designation for the towpath. Many members of the Commission concurred in this view.

Mr. Kirkland will respond to the proposal expressing the Commission's feelings that this would not be a good use for the towpath.

Next Meeting

The next monthly meeting will be held on August 21. Mr. Sayen and Mrs. Bullitt indicated that they would be on vacation at that time.