

Delaware and Raritan Canal Commission

James C. Amon,
Executive Director

MINUTES OF MEETING

COMMISSIONERS

Benjamin B. Kirkland,
Chairman

Martin D. Jessen,
Vice-Chairman

Donald B. Jones,
Treasurer

David J. Bardin
Lee Bullitt

Joseph H. Burns
Arthur J. Holland
James C. Sayen
Frank J. Torpey

DATE: 16 October 1975
TIME: 12:30-3:30pm
LOCATION: Canal House, 25 Calhoun Street, Trenton, N.J.
ATTENDING:
COMMISSION: Mr. Benjamin Kirkland, Mr. Martin Jessen,
Mr. Donald Jones, Mr. Joseph Burns,
Mayor Arthur Holland, Mr. James Sayen,
Mr. Ian Walker

COMMISSION STAFF: Mr. James Amon, Mrs. Elizabeth Ranney

DEP: Mrs. Barbara Levin, Mr. Michael Galley, Mr. Mel
Meyers, Mr. John Kraml

ATTORNEY GENERAL: Jonathan Weiner, Esq.

ABSENT WITH CAUSE: Ms. Lee Bullitt, Mr. Frank Torpey

GUESTS: Mr. John Clarke, Director, Department of Planning
and Development, City of Trenton; Mr. Lee
Weintraub, Department of Planning and Develop-
ment, City of Trenton.

Minutes of 18 September 1975 Meeting

Mr. Jones made a motion to accept the minutes with
the following amendments:

- 1) a hearty 'thank you' to Barbara Levin for her
service as acting secretary of the Commission.
- 2) Commissioners to be listed as 'absent' or
'absent with cause'.

Mr. Jessen seconded the motion. All Commissioners
present and voting agreed.

Change in By-Laws

Mr. Jones suggested that the word, 'other', be included
in the by-law change to read: ".....and on such other
days..."

Mr. Jessen moved that the proposed by-law change be
approved, to include the word 'other'. Mr. Sayen
seconded the motion which was carried with no dissenting
votes.

Accounting Firm of Leopold, Edelman and Eros

Approval of the accounting firm of Leopold, Edelman and Eros was discussed. Mr. Jones consented to write a letter to the Commission recommending the firm, based on his experience with them and other firms. The Commission requested that a contract and itemized service budget be submitted by the firm and that an outside limit of \$1000 be set as the yearly fee for accounting services. The decision to accept the services of Leopold, Edelman and Eros as accountants for the Commission was tabled until such contracts, budgets, and letters are received by the Commission. The Commission will continue to use their services on a per diem basis, however.

Leases

The Commission expressed concern over signing leases about which they had so little information regarding who sets rates, who qualifies for leases etc. Mr. Meyers referred the Commission to Commissioner Bardin's Administrative Order #22 which will be obtained for the next meeting. It was requested that a representative from the Division of Land Leases and Facilities be invited to the next meeting to explain lease procedures. It was moved by Mr. Sayen and seconded by Mr. Jessen to authorize the Executive Director to sign the leases presently needing signatures for the Commission.

Concerning Mr. Herbert Simmons

The Commission agreed with Mr. Kirkland's letter of 26 September which denied claims for compensation made by Mr. Herbert Simmons. Since no word has been heard from Mr. Simmons in response to Mr. Kirkland's letter, it was decided to let the matter rest until such time as Mr. Simmons is heard from.

Executive Director's Report

It was moved by Mr. Kirkland and seconded by Mr. Jessen to approve:

- 1) Expenditure of initial \$100 for petty cash and subsequent amount of \$50 as needed by the Director.
- 2) Expenses of the Commission in the amount of \$446.99 incurred prior to the establishment of a bank account with the First National State Bank of Central Jersey and paid from Commission funds by Barbara Levin, then acting secretary for the Commission.
- 3) Expenses of the Commission since the establishment of a bank account in amount of \$4431.49 paid by the Executive Director over the signatures of the Chairman and Treasurer of the Commission.

All Commissioners present and voting approved. The Commission authorized the purchase of a car for the Executive Director as per the agreement of employment. The car is to be purchased through the DEP at a cost of \$2850.

Building security was discussed. The Director will look into

the cost of installing a loud-ringing burglar alarm. He will also explore possibilities of a safe for documents and a fire-proof file system. The Parks Department has ordered heavy-duty screens to be installed on certain windows of the Canal House.

Mr. Amon discussed the progress of the master plan and distributed a preliminary outline. Several professional planners have been interviewed and have suggested the need for a soils and vegetation study. Mr. Sayen and Mr. Kirkland suggested contacting local University departments for assistance in this phase of the plan. Mr. Amon roughly estimates 6 months to get this part of the plan prepared. Mayor Holland moved to endorse the preliminary master plan outline and Mr. Amon's efforts to date. Mr. Jessen seconded the motion which was carried with no dissenting votes.

New Development Proposals

New Brunswick's Boyd Park was discussed. Although this section of the canal is not part of the D&R Canal Park, it is of interest as a contiguous part of it. The Commission suggested that the Director write a letter of thanks to Green Acres with which funds the park is being undertaken and suggest that they consider the installation of an exit lock to maintain the water level at this tidal point of the canal.

Franklin Township Green Acres proposal was explained. The Commission recommended that they be encouraged but also reminded to keep the D&R Canal Park in mind as they formulate their plans.

Washington Crossing State Park plans were discussed by John Kraml of the Parks Department. The plan calls for a limited number of new roads into and within the park, a new picnic area and a pedestrian over-pass over Route 29. This will enable people to walk from the primary park area to the canal area with ease.

The Delaware and Raritan Canal-Cadwalader Park Plan and the West End Redevelopment Project were explained by John Clarke, and Lee Weintraub. They mentioned a local group, the Canal House Association, which is interested in the rehabilitation of the Canal House on Prospect Street at West State. Since the canal flows through a large part of the proposed West End Project, they hope the Commission will endorse their proposal to the National Endowment for the Arts from whom they hope to get funding for the actual exterior renovations of the Canal House. Mr. Jessen moved to endorse the plan and Mr. Sayen seconded the motion. There were no dissenting votes.

The next meeting will be on 20 November 1975.

There being no more official business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

JCA/ebr