

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: 20 November 1975
TIME: 12:30-6:00pm
LOCATION: Canal House, 25 Calhoun St, Trenton
ATTENDING:

COMMISSION: Mr. Benjamin Kirkland, Mr. Martin Jessen,
Mr. Donald Jones, Mr. Joseph Burns,
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. Philip Boscarell.

ATTORNEY GENERAL: Mr. Thomas Widner

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

GUESTS: Ms. Leslie Sauer, ecological planner and
Assistant Professor of Botany at the
University of Pennsylvania.

Minutes of 16 October 1975 Meeting

Mr. Sayen moved to accept the minutes. The motion
was seconded by Mr. Jessen and passed with no dissenting
votes.

Accounting Firm of Leopold, Edelman and Eros

A letter from Leopold, Edelman and Eros was read by
Mr. Amon outlining the services to be rendered by
them and the costs thereof for fiscal year 1975-
1976. Mr. Jones' letter of highest recommendation was
also read. It was moved by Mr. Sayen and seconded by
Mr. Jessen to accept the firm of Leopold, Edelman and
Eros as accountants for the D&R Canal Commission. The
motion was carried with no dissenting votes.

Leases

Mr. Boscarell, chief of the Land Leases and Facilities
Department, discussed that department's procedures in
setting rents. He stated that the appraising of state-

owned properties is done by competent state appraisers who know their business. Mr. Amon suggested that in signing the leases, the Commission approve only the use, not the fee as set by Mr. Boscarell's office. Mr. Widner stated that the primary responsibility for the leases lies with the DEP, not the Commission. The Commission decided that, due to their inability to review fees, their approval extends to land use only. It was moved by Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mr. Sayen to authorize Mr. Amon to sign the leases with the understanding that approval is for use only. All Commissioners present and voting concurred.

Review of Commission Finances

It was moved by Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mr. Sayen to accept the monthly expenses as submitted for Commission approval. There were no dissenting votes. A discussion of the financial picture based on a tentative, estimated budget led to talk of funding possibilities. Mr. Amon has contacted the New Jersey Bicentennial Commission, the New Jersey Council for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Arts and HUD. The Commission encouraged the exploration of private sources for possible funding. The appearance of conflict of interest arising from industrial funding should be considered although it was felt that this did not present a serious restraint on Commission fund raising. Johnson and Johnson, Lenox, and Standard Oil of New Jersey were mentioned as possible industrial sources. Mr. Sayen suggested contacting the Princeton Historical Society regarding their funding sources.

Physical Condition of Canal and Results of Defeat of Water Resources Bond Issue

Mr. Galley discussed the need for items regarding the canal included in the recently defeated bond issue. A general improvement plan for the canal based on roughly bi-yearly inspections has been instituted. The need for a good and thorough map was discussed. Mr. Sayen and Mr. Jessen suggested contacting the Department of Transportation regarding the use of some of their engineering staff for this purpose. The Divisions of Water Resources and Parks will cooperate in aerial mapping of the canal area. Mr. Galley stated that, after aerial mapping is done, \$87,000 will be available in his budget for work on the canal. The projects he proposed are rehabilitation of old flood gates and/or embankment work on the section of the canal between Lock 5 at Easton Road to Landing Lane in New Brunswick. Discussion ensued regarding the line between responsibilities for canal maintenance which lie with Mr. Galley and major changes which should be brought before the Commission. Mr. Kirkland expressed his concern that although Mr. Galley had great concern for the canal as a park, he feared that any potential successor might not be so sympathetic which could cause serious difficulties for the Commission. Mr. Galley recognized the rights and obligations of the Commission and urged that the two bodies work cooperatively together. He urged the Commission to communicate to Commissioner Bardin the need for monies for preventive canal maintenance.

Executive Director's Report

Security. Mr. Amon reported that the canal house has been vandalized. Windows have been measured for protective screens to be provided by the Department of Parks. Discussion of estimates for security devices for building security followed. It was moved by Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mr. Sayen to hire the GMP Scientific Corporation of Trenton to install such security systems as are necessary. The motion was passed with no dissenting votes.

Holidays. It was moved by Mr. Sayen and seconded by Mr. Jones to accept the holiday schedule used by the State with the amendment "and any other days officially designated by the Governor for State employees". All Commissioners present and voting concurred.

"D&R Canal" film. The possible contribution of funds by the Commission toward the purchase of the film, "The D&R Canal", in conjunction with a blanket order being placed by the NJ State Museum at reduced rates was discussed. Mr. Walker suggested contacting the NJEA as a possible purchaser of the film. Mr. Amon will look into the matter.

Use of Commission Chairman's Signature. It was decided that the Chairman should probably sign correspondence to elected and appointed officials within the State government and all policy statements. Mr. Amon should consult Mr. Kirkland when in doubt.

Logo. Mr. Amon stated that the logo competition had had disappointing results. The Commission was not impressed with the entries and suggested that Mr. Amon hire a professional to design the Delaware and Raritan Canal Commission logo.

Washington Crossing Park Proposal. The Commission approved the general plan presented by the Department of Parks for a foot bridge over the canal in the area designated.

Projects on the Canal. Mr. Amon stated his feeling of the need for the Commission to undertake a simple project on the canal for purposes of public visibility. Suggested projects included signs, map, photographic collection, help with municipal projects and improvement work at specific locations. The Commission recognized the need for noticable projects while working on the less visible master plan. Mr. Kirkland discussed the Milo Jimison Farm in Lambertville which is presently owned by the Hunterdon County Historical Society and is available for \$7000. It was moved by Mr. Burns and seconded by Mr. Jones to recommend the acquisition of the Milo Jimison property through the Green Acres program with all dispatch due to the peculiar circumstances. The motion was passed with no dissenting votes. The Commission authorized Mr. Amon to communicate to the heads of the Departments of Parks and Green Acres the Commission's desire to purchase this property. Mr. Walker and Mr. Kirkland will also meet with Commissioner Bardin to inform him of the Commission's wishes in this matter.

Master Plan. Mr. Walker stressed the Commission's primary function as being the creation of a master plan and the subsequent establishment of a review zone. He urged the use of voluntary, cooperating groups to work on secondary efforts thus freeing the Executive Director to work toward the speedy completion of a master plan. This has the additional value of involving the community in the project thus creating an interested constituency. The Commission was in complete agreement although Mr. Jones wondered if master plan work couldn't

accommodate involvement in at least one other project.

Introduction of Ms. Leslie Sauer

Ms. Sauer spoke as a friend of the canal, offering her thoughts regarding master plans in general and the canal in particular. She discussed the need, when using local groups for information gathering, to have a consistent format so that information will be useful and coherent. She felt that the D&RCC is in the unique position of dealing with all aspects of the regional canal area on equal terms. It is vital, therefore, to collect all data equally thoroughly. She urged good mapping and the need to establish an immediate format for critical areas i.e. West Windsor and Franklin Township to include thorough information on all aspects which will stand up in court. This could then help to establish the format for the entire canal plan. Mr. Walker urged the collection of good resource people with whom Mr. Amon can meet to help him within their specific areas of expertise. This would also foster public involvement. Ms. Sauer stressed that she spoke only as a friend of the canal. Any consideration of fees would come only when the Commission is more certain of its needs and directions.

The next meeting will be on 18 December 1975.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

JCA/ebr