

Delaware and Raritan Canal Commission

James C. Amon,
Executive Director

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

MINUTES OF MEETING

DATE: 18 December 1975
TIME: 12:30-5pm
LOCATION: Canal House, 25 Calhoun Street, Trenton
ATTENDING:

COMMISSION: Mr. Benjamin Kirkland, Mr. Martin Jessen,
Mr. Donald Jones, Ms. Lee Bullitt,
Mr. Joseph Burns, Mr. James Sayen,
Mr. Frank Torpey, Mr. Ian Walker.

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

DEP: Mrs. Barbara Levin, Mr. Mel Meyers

ATTORNEY GENERAL: Mr. Thomas Widner

ABSENT WITH CAUSE: Mayor Arthur Holland

GUESTS: Mr. Curt Hubert, Administrator, Green Acres
Program; Mr. Robert Stokes, planner for Green
Acres Program; Mr. Alfred Busselle and Mrs.
Nancy Knox, representatives from the Histor-
ical Society of Princeton; Mr. John Clarke,
Director of Department of Planning and Develop-
ment, City of Trenton.

21 November

Minutes of 18 December 1975 Meeting

Mr. Sayen requested that his statement on page 2, section Review of Commission Finances, be changed to read:

Mr. Sayen suggested that Mr. Amon contact Mr. Cuyler of the Princeton Historical Society to discuss their funding sources.

Mr. Meyers requested that the following clarification of Mr. Galley's financial statement, page 2, section Physical Condition of Canal, be included in the minutes to read:

Mr. Galley stated that \$750,000 has been appropriated for capital improvements this fiscal year and, in addition, the Division expects to receive \$399,000 from the Department of Transportation which can be applied to capital projects. Mr. Galley explained

several projects which are pending, i.e. canal mapping(\$225,000), hydraulic/hydrologic study(\$100,000), Port Mercer flood guard dike(\$500,000), July 1975 flood damage repairs(\$224,000), Kingston control repairs(\$13,000). The balance of \$87,000 can be used for repairs of the canal embankment from 5 Mile Lock to New Brunswick unless some emergency necessitates another use.

Mr. Jones moved that the minutes as amended be approved, with Mr. Jessen seconding the motion. All Commissioners present and voting concurred.

Review of Finances

It was moved by Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mr. Burns to accept the monthly expenses as submitted for Commission approval. Mr. Jones further moved that, henceforth, he, as Treasurer, review the Commission finances monthly, with the Commission as a whole reviewing them quarterly. Mr. Torpey seconded the motion which was passed unanimously. The motion to increase the petty cash account from \$50.00 to \$100.00 was made by Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mr. Torpey. It was passed with no dissenting votes.

Leases

Mr. Sayen made the motion to accept and sign lease #0300129701 with Mr. Fox for its one year term. Mr. Torpey seconded the motion which was carried with no dissenting votes. Regarding the other lease presently due for Commission signature with the Laurie Rubber Company (#0300129801), it was stated by Mr. Amon that the company's land use presents an unpleasant view from the canal and they are potential polluters of canal water. It was agreed by all Commissioners that representatives of the Divisions of Water Resources and Parks and Forestry, the two Commissioners from Somerset County and Mr. Amon make an appointment with Laurie Rubber Company to inform them of the Commission's concerns regarding their use of canal land, of the fact that renewal of their lease is contingent on their cleaning up their property, and of the Commission's future plans for that land which they now lease from the State. Mr. Widner approved this action.

Commissioners' Involvement in Canal Park

Mr. Kirkland suggested that the individual commission members could contribute their services and pursue various projects relating to their area of the canal and within their own areas of expertise. In so doing they should identify themselves as such but state that they did not speak for the Commission as a whole. It was stressed that any such projects should be reviewed with the Director to determine their place within the total Canal Park concept and that Mr. Amon's authority to carry out the program should not be superceded. Mr. Burns suggested contacting the municipalities through which the canal flows requesting them to notify the Commission of any applications

having immediate bearing on the Canal Park.

Annual Report

The annual report as required by the enabling legislation was discussed. Mr. Widner stated the advisability of having it ready by the December 31 deadline. Mr. Amon will draft the document and submit it for Commission approval before the final document is filed. This will be done before 31 December 1975.

Princeton Canal Basin Restoration Project

Mr. Alfred Busselle and Mrs. Nancy Knox of the Historical Society of Princeton presented the Society's plan for the restoration and improvement of the Princeton Basin area. Their plans are in the very early planning stages but were well received by the Commission. Mr. Walker, Mr. Kirkland and Mr. Amon for the Commission will request a meeting with the West Windsor Planning Board to discuss their plans for the other side of the canal in this area which lies in that municipality.

Pilot Project

The use of a pilot project to help the Commission formulate and implement its review zone procedures was discussed. Mr. Amon stressed his views regarding the need to have a consistent, thorough master plan for the entire canal upon which to base a review zone. Mr. Walker suggested that it was possible to work on both concurrently. By working with local officials on selected pilot areas in order to get maximum input and cooperation at the local level, the procedures for dealing with the entire canal review area might be simplified and potential difficulties ironed out. The need to establish criteria for the selection of pilot areas was discussed. A special meeting of the Commission to determine these criteria will be held at the Canal House, Monday, 29 December, 1975 at 12 noon.

City of Trenton Green Acres Proposals

The Commission reviewed the City of Trenton's proposals presently before Green Acres for consideration as presented by Mr. John Clarke, Director of Planning and Development for the City of Trenton. Mr. Amon expressed his wholehearted approval of the concepts involved. A resolution stating the Commission's general agreement with the City of Trenton's proposals for Green Acres projects was moved by Mr. Sayen and seconded by Mr. Jones. It was passed unanimously. Mr. Sayen further read into the record the Commission's endorsement and congratulations to Mr. Clarke and the City of Trenton for their efforts and urged the Green Acres program to give serious consideration to the projects from the city now before them.

Somerset County Bicentennial Bikeway

Mr. Kirkland read a letter received by him from the Somerset County Bicentennial Advisory Board regarding the Commission's

denial of approval for Somerset County's bikeway proposal, dated 29 September 1975. The Commission reviewed its reasons for denying approval. Mrs. Levin explained the standards required by the State for a path officially designated a "bikeway." Ms. Bullitt suggested the use of a less specific title for the path to better describe its general use. It was decided to invite a representative of the Somerset County Bicentennial Advisory Board to the next Commission meeting.

Department of Environmental Protection's Multi-Use Trail Facility Proposal

Mr. Curt Hubert, Administrator of the Green Acres Program, requested conceptual approval from the Commission for the multi-use trail between Washington Crossing and the Trenton Battle Monument. He discussed the planning and research which has gone into the project design and the concerns of the Bureau of Water Facilities Operations. Mr. Amon discussed his critique of the proposal as submitted to the Commission and Mr. Hubert for their information. The future of the Belvidere and Delaware Railroad and its impact on the trail were mentioned. Mr. Amon expressed his concern that the proposal does not deal with the need to improve access to the tow path-multi-use trail area and other path development such as furniture. Mr. Hubert stressed that the trail was not designed to include entire development of the canal tow path between Washington Crossing and the Trenton Battle Monument but it could go a long way toward that goal and was a start in that direction. Mr. Kirkland asked for clarification of the fact that the DEP trail and the Trenton plan for bikeway development along the towpath seemed to be the same. Mr. Clarke stated that this was so except for one minor difference in one area but that the city and Green Acres were in agreement in principle. Mr. Hubert concurred. The status of land ownership along the canal and possible encroachments on state-owned land was discussed. Mr. Stokes stated that a survey of lands involved to determine ownership will be a part of a later phase of the study. The composition of the surface to be used on the trail and the need to use different surfaces for different environments was discussed. Ms. Bullitt made the motion to approve the concept of a multi-use path between Washington Crossing and the Trenton Battle Monument while expressing the Commission's concern over the aspects of access and surface composition. Mr. Sayen seconded the motion which was carried with no dissenting votes. The Commission expressed to Mr. Hubert their interest and desire to be regularly informed as the plan develops.

Milo Jimison Property

The status of the Milo Jimison property was discussed. Mr. Hubert explained Green Acres' procedures for processing applications and said that when this has been completed, the DEP will contact the Hunterdon County Historical Society.

Miscellanea

The Commissioners expressed their desire to become familiar with

the entire length of the canal. Mr. Amon, who has walked the whole canal, will put together sample walks showing the best points along the canal for the Commission.

The state of the Commission's budget was discussed. Mr. Amon said that the D&RCC budget was submitted within the DEP budget and the proposed Commission budget, 30 July 1975, had been submitted to the DEP.

Discussion was held regarding the wish of the Commission to hold a special meeting for the legislators who served on the Special Study Committee on the Delaware and Raritan Canal in order to acquaint them with the work and progress of the Commission to date.

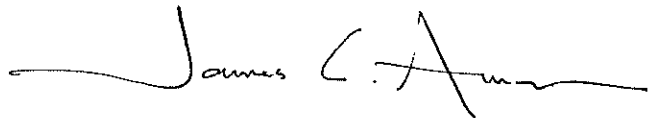
HUD proposal

The proposed D&RCC application for a HUD grant relating to the canal park's dual function as a water resource and a regional planning endeavor was discussed. Mr. Amon stated that this is a new program with no special grant application form and that the people with whom he spoke in Washington were most enthusiastic about the potential of the D&R Canal as a model program. It was decided that Mr. Kirkland, Mr. Walker, and Mr. Amon will arrange a meeting with Commissioner Bardin to discuss the proposal. Since the award is made through the Department of Community Affairs, Commissioner Sheehan of that department will be kept informed of the project.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

The next regular Commission meeting will be held Thursday, January 15, 1976 at 12:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James C. Amon". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the left.

JCA/ebr