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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 SPECIAL MEETING

DATE: 29 December 1975
TIME: 12 noon to 3:45pm
LOCATION: Canal House, 25 Calhoun Street, Trenton
ATTENDING:

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

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

DEP: Mrs. Barbara Levin, Mr. Michael Galley, Mr. Mel
Meyers, Mr. Gregory Chase

ATTORNEY GENERAL: Mr. Jonathan Weiner

ABSENT WITH CAUSE: Mr. Joseph Burns

Somerset County Bicentennial Bikeway

As suggested at the 18 December meeting, representatives from the Somerset County Bicentennial Advisory Board will be invited to the next Commission meeting, 15 January 1976, at which time representatives of the Divisions of Water Resources and Parks and Forestry will discuss their policies, standards and requirements in regard to the bikeway proposal. Mr. Weiner stated that on all projects such as the bikeway proposal, the Canal Commission has final approval and complete authority over all other agencies within the Department of Environmental Protection who may be involved.

Division of Water Resources

Mr. Galley distributed the Division's Delaware and Raritan Canal Water Supply Management and Maintenance Improvement Program Plan as prepared by him and presented to Commissioner Bardin. The Commissioner will review this long-range program and make his recommendations to the Delaware and Raritan Canal Commission. The Commission members will study this report and respond to it at the next meeting.

In response to a number of complaints from citizens in the Griggstown area concerning work being done there on the tow path and canal embankment by the Division of Water Resources, Mr. Galley described his view of the proper canal profile and the work currently being done in the Griggstown area to repair flood damage and bring the tow path up to grade. His department will look into the situation and deal strongly with the contractor if they feel the job is being poorly done. Mr. Weiner stated that all improvements undertaken in the Canal Park must come before the Commission for approval although there would obviously be occasions when emergency situations would make this procedure impractical. He suggested that the Divisions of Water Resources and Parks draw up criteria outlining their definitions of "emergency situations" within which areas they would need the flexibility to operate without Commission approval. It was felt that in dealing with the canal as a water resource as well as a park, certain conflicts might arise and that it was, therefore, imperative that communications between the various agencies of the DEP and the Commission be open and in good working order. Mr. Galley discussed streams and drainage as they affect the canal. He divided the canal into 5 zones:

- 1) Streams along the feeder. They are flashy with deep ravines which can usually handle flood situations and need no major improvements.
- 2) Trenton. This area is made difficult due to the storm drains and trash which gets dumped into them and clogs them up.
- 3) US I to Princeton. The area cannot tolerate any more water.
- 4) Princeton to 10 Mile Lock. This is a section of submerged culverts and siphon structures about which very little is known. It is not apparently as bad as zone 3. The water shed in that area is flat with little apparent siltation.
- 5) Section parallel to the Raritan River. This is part of the floodway of the Raritan River. He is in contact with Dirk Hoffman, Bureau of Flood Plains Management, regarding this section.

Mr. Walker suggested that there are a number of programs already existant within the DEP concerning water flow, quality, etc. and that the Commission can work within these existing programs and encourage these agencies to live up to their obligations.

Mr. Jessen suggested that the Commission adopt the following as its criteria for dealing with upland development in a review zone as it pertains to drainage:

- 1) For streams flowing under the canal- there can be no increase in present rate of run off or siltation. If the stream passes through the park area, there can be no increase in contamination.
- 2) For streams flowing into the canal- there can be no increase in present rate of run off and siltation and no evidence of pollution.

This approach would place the burden of proof with potential developers rather than with the Commission.

Pilot Project

Mr. Amon stated that he was in favor of pursuing one pilot project. Mr. Torpey stressed the need to consider problems that exist in several municipalities equally in selecting pilot areas. Mr. Walker stated that criteria should be included to deal with all major issues which will confront the Commission in its entire review zone i.e. technical, political, aesthetic, geographic, and areas under pressure from developers. Mr. Amon will prepare a set of criteria for pilot project selection and present pilot areas that meet these criteria at the next meeting. He will also re-write the letter to West Windsor regarding the Commission's response to their PUD area adjacent to the canal for Mr. Kirkland's signature with a copy to be sent to their professional planner, Mr. Charles Agel. Mr. Amon will contact Mr. Higgins, the planner for Franklin Township, and bring him up-to-date on the Commission's progress and offer assistance. The Commission expressed the need to be very general and concilliatory in its dealings with municipalities at this time.

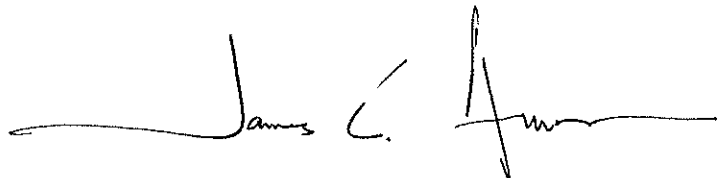
Special Meeting for Legislators

It was decided to wait until the Legislature has been in session for several weeks before inviting legislators involved in the Study Committee on the D&R Canal to a special meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for 15 January 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 line extending to the left and another extending to the right.

JCA/ebr