

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: 15 January 1976

TIME: 12:30-4:30pm

LOCATION: Canal House, 25 Calhoun Street, Trenton

ATTENDING:

COMMISSION: Mr. Benjamin Kirkland, Mr. Donald Jones,
Ms. Lee Bullitt, Mr. Joseph Burns,
Mayor Arthur Holland, Mr. Frank Torpey.

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

DEP: Mrs. Barbara Levin

ATTORNEY GENERAL: none present

ABSENT: Mr. Martin Jessen, Mr. James Sayen, Mr. Ian Walker

GUESTS: Mr. Thomas Schrope, Somerset County Planning
Staff; Mrs. Jessie Havens, Somerset County
Bicentennial Coordinator.

Minutes of 18 December 1975 and 29 December 1975

Mr. Galley, through Mr. Amon, requested that the following addition to the minutes of the 29 December 1975 meeting be made: page 2, section, Division of Water Resources:

If the Commission wants to divide the Canal into sections for the purposes of its review zone, this division might prove useful to the Commission for that purpose.

Mr. Jones moved that the minutes of the 18 December 1975 and 29 December 1975 meetings be approved as amended. Ms. Bullitt seconded the motion which was passed with no dissenting votes.

Budget for 1976-1977

The present proposed budget was discussed and reviewed by Mr. Amon. The total figure of \$131,650 reflects a decrease of \$37,350 from the budget proposed at the 30 July 1975 meeting of the Commission. Mr. Jones moved

that the Commission grant official approval of the budget request as submitted for 1976. Ms. Bullitt seconded the motion which was passed with no dissenting votes.

The Commission discussed their role in helping to get the budget passed. Mayor Holland suggested that the budget be submitted and that the Commission members make every effort to alert key people whom they know, using a personal approach, to encourage its passage. Key people mentioned were: Assemblymen Weidel, Foran and Hamilton; Senators Bateman, Beadleston, Dwyer and Merlino; Budget Director Wexler.

Leases

There were no leases needing Commission approval this month. Mr. Amon discussed the meeting which he, Ms. Bullitt and Mr. Myers of Water Facilities Operations had with the Laurie Rubber Company (lease # 0300129801.) The Laurie Rubber Company is proceeding to clean up the debris from the premises and Mr. Amon will recheck the area in June to insure continued compliance. He recommended that the Commission now approve the lease. Mr. Burns made the motion to approve the lease of the Laurie Rubber Company. Mr. Jones seconded the motion which was passed with no dissenting votes. Mr. Kirkland recommended that Mr. Amon write the Laurie Rubber Company a letter stating that the Commission will, in all probability, want to include the land the Laurie Rubber Company now leases from the State in the Delaware and Raritan Canal State Park, thus making it unavailable to them for future lease rights.

Building Security

Mr. Amon stated that the GMP Scientific Corporation which had been hired to install a security system for the Canal House had been unable to meet the contract deadline and so the contract has been cancelled. Other companies dealing with security systems will be investigated. Mayor Holland will put their Crime Prevention Unit person in touch with the Commission for their information.

Somerset County Bicentennial Board's Proposal

Mr. Schrope explained that Somerset County Bicentennial Board chose the Bikeway Route from Rocky Hill to Bernardsville to approximate the route of General Washington from the Battle of Princeton to Morristown. Their purpose would be to publicize Washington's route in newspapers, with signs etc. and draw attention to it in this Bicentennial year. They envisage maintenance of the tow path section of the total route rather than major improvements. Mrs. Levin stated that by designating that part of the route that would utilize the canal tow path as a Bikeway, such use would then take precedence over other uses. She recommended the development of the path for multiple use to preserve its character. Mr. Burns suggested that Somerset County use the concept of Washington's route as a Bikeway with the designation that the section of the Delaware and Raritan tow

path from Rocky Hill to the Weston Causeway is part of that route, without specifically designating the tow path as a Bikeway. The Commission granted the Somerset County Bicentennial Board this permission. They further asked that signs, to be located at access points to the tow path, and literature explaining current park rules and permitted uses, be submitted for Commission approval.

Mr. Amon pointed out that this approval sets the policy of allowing municipalities and groups to undertake projects on the canal, with Commission approval, and receive the credit for so doing.

Relations with DEP Agencies

Mr. Amon requested the Commissioners to add any further questions they might have to the memo dealing with the responsibilities of Water Facilities Operations in managing the canal as a water resource. The following questions and suggestions will be added to the memo:

1. maximum weight of vehicles using tow path
2. need to test strength of tow path
3. Possible Commission field examinations of WFO projects
4. Need for Commission involvement in WFO land acquisition plans.

Mr. Amon reported that Mr. Galley will discuss the memo with Mr. Rocco Ricci, First Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Protection, and respond to it at the February meeting.

Master Plan

Mr. Amon discussed the progress in mapping the canal to show various features. The information regarding water use, soils, visual corridors, land use and vegetation is largely available but needs to be edited and put on consistent maps for master plan use. The Commission approved Mr. Torpey's motion, seconded by Mr. Burns, that the Executive Director hire Andropogon Associates and Samuel Hamill, Jr. and the drafting staff of the Middlesex-Somerset-Mercer Regional Study Council to prepare the necessary maps for a sum not to exceed \$2500. There were no negative votes, with Mr. Jones abstaining.

Review Zone

Using the Delaware and Raritan Canal Commission proposal presently before HUD as a basis for discussion, Mr. Amon reviewed the areas needing consideration for the review zone of the Delaware and Raritan Canal State Park. These areas include water, vegetation, soils, land use, historic sites, legal advice, planning consultation, mapping, printing, and management consultation. He increasingly sees the largest area of the review zone as that showing the drainage area of the canal which implies a regional planning concept. Mr. Jones expressed his approval of the proposal and its clarification of the review zone concept. Mr. Kirkland and Mr. Torpey will try to see the HUD project director when

they are in Washington in February.

Pilot Project

The need for additional funds to properly do a complete pilot project was discussed. Any schedule for completion would depend on available funds. Based on immediate need to assist communities under pressure from developers and the assistance communities are able to give the Commission, two sections of the canal were selected to serve as Pilot Projects for the Delaware and Raritan Canal Commission. A resolution giving Commission approval for the Executive Director to undertake Pilot Projects in Franklin Township and the Princeton- West Windsor area was made by Ms. Bullitt and seconded by Mr. Jones. There were no dissenting votes.

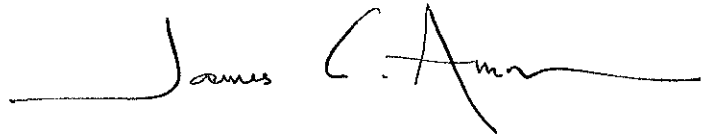
Accidents Relating to the Canal

The death by drowning of a Trenton child was discussed. The need for a public safety, education and awareness campaign was voiced. The local schools and police will be contacted to pursue this plan.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

The next regular meeting of the Commission will be 19 February. Light lunch will be served at 12:30, with the meeting beginning at 1pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James C. Am...", with a long horizontal line extending to the left and a flourish to the right.

JCA/ebr