

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: 19 February 1976
TIME: 12:30pm- 4:30pm
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: Mrs. Elizabeth Ranney

DEP: Mrs. Barbara Levin, Mr. Michael Galley, Mr. Mel
Myers, Mr. Greg Chase

DAG: Mr. Thomas Widner

ABSENT: Mayor Arthur Holland, Mr. James Amon

GUESTS: Mrs. Reed, Chairman of the Environmental
Commission of Princeton; Mr. Eugene Schneider,
Executive Director, County and Municipal
Government Study Commission; Mr. Harrison Uhl,
Advisor to West Windsor Planning Board; Mr.
Donald Perrine, member of West Windsor Planning
Board.

Mr. Kirkland stated that the requirements of the Public
Meetings Law had been properly met for the Commission
meeting of 19 February 1976.

Minutes of 15 January 1976 Meeting

Mr. Jones moved that the minutes of the 15 January 1976
meeting be approved as transcribed. Ms. Bullitt seconded
the motion which was passed with no dissenting votes.

Deputy Attorney General

Although he was unable to be present at the Commission meeting,
this was to have been Jonathan Weiner's last meeting as the
Commission's counsel. It was moved by Mr. Jessen to express
the Commission's appreciation of Mr. Weiner's services

during the Commission's embryonic stage and to wish him well. Mr. Torpey seconded the motion which was unanimously passed. Mr. Kirkland then welcomed Mr. Thomas Widner as the Commission's new Deputy Attorney General.

Commission Business

Security measures for the Canal House were once again discussed. The installation of solid core doors, dead bolt locks, window bars and pegs at a cost of approximately \$600.00 plus labor charges was considered. Mrs. Levin stated that the Division of Parks had no objections to the Commission's undertaking security measures of this type on the Canal House but that the Division could not supply necessary labor to do the job due to manpower commitments for Bicentennial projects. The motion was made by Mr. Torpey to authorize the Director to implement the installation of solid core exterior doors, dead bolt locks, window bars and pegs at the lowest possible cost for effective materials and labor. Mr. Jessen seconded the motion which passed with no dissenting votes.

Air conditioning of the Canal House was discussed. After hearing various proposals, the Commission, on a motion introduced by Mr. Jessen, authorized the Director in consultation with Messers. Jones and Kirkland to purchase two window units and see to their proper and secure installation. Mr. Sayen seconded the motion which was passed with no dissenting votes.

West Windsor

Mr. Uhl and Mr. Perrine discussed West Windsor's master plan and the Planned Residential Neighborhood 20 (PRN) area adjacent to the canal. The three major areas of concern as stated in Mr. Kirkland's letter to West Windsor Planning Board Chairman, Frank Stiefel, set-back, water run-off, and height limitations, were reviewed. The West Windsor representatives expressed concern over the review zone powers of the Commission and Mr. Burns read from the legislation that portion dealing with the authority of the Commission regarding a review zone. Mr. Widner suggested that prior to the actual delineation of its review zone, the Commission can give indication of its future intentions to the West Windsor Planning Board to aid them in dealing with builder applications. It was agreed that the Commission and the West Windsor Planning Board have similar interests regarding the Canal Park and that Mr. Amon should keep West Windsor involved in its role as a pilot area in the development of the master plan. Mr. Amon will contact Mr. Perrine and Mr. Stiefel to set up a working relationship between the Commission and the West Windsor Planning Board during the development process of the master plan.

Commission Jurisdiction over lands between Landing Lane Bridge and the outlet lock.

Mr. Kirkland read a recent letter from Mr. Newling of the Citizens' Committee for Environmental Protection discussing their concerns regarding the canal in New Brunswick. Mr. Burns reviewed the

background of the Route 18-D&R Canal controversy. It was moved by Mr. Torpey and seconded by Mr. Jessen that a legal opinion from the Attorney General's office be sought regarding the Commission's jurisdiction over this section of the canal. All Commissioners present and voting concurred. Mr. Amon will write to Mr. Newling stating that the question is being taken under advisement.

Canal mapping by Bureau of Water Facilities Operations

Mr. Galley and Mr. Chase distributed WFO's preliminary outline specifications for the aerial mapping of the canal. They discussed the reasons for mapping and described it as the first step in a long range capital improvement plan for the canal. The Commission expressed its interest in acquiring a set of these aerial photos of the canal at a cost of about \$2.95 per each 9x9 print. Mr. Jessen moved that the Commission purchase these photos and Mr. Jones seconded the motion. All Commissioners present and voting concurred. Mr. Galley also presented WFO preliminary plans for the rehabilitation of the tow path and canal embankment in the Port Mercer area. He indicated that this is a critical area for WFO in regard to flood control and water inspection.

Operating procedures between the Commission and Bureau of Water Facilities Operations

Mr. Galley stated that it was impractical to establish a book of standards dealing with the Bureau of Water Facilities Operations and its operations. He suggested that rather than such a book, a system of section-by-section discussions of tow path needs and standards as they are planned, be instituted between WFO and the Commission of which the preliminary plans for the Port Mercer area as presented above are an example. Mr. Walker suggested that WFO submit its projects for Commission review and that the Commission do the same for WFO review regarding their needs.

Division of Parks

Mrs. Levin presented the Division of Parks' final plans for a bridge over the canal in Washington Crossing Park for Commission review and approval. Mr. Jessen made the motion that the Commission approve the plan with enthusiasm with Mr. Torpey seconding the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor of the plan as presented.

At the request of Mr. Amon during his absence, Mrs. Levin presented the list of suggested D&R Canal Park land acquisitions as prepared by Mr. Amon. She stated that the Division of Parks will also compile a list of suggested acquisitions. The Commission would like to see these proposals related to the total Canal Park and master plan before considering them in depth. Appropriate mapping to so indicate will be prepared for the next Commission meeting. The Commission indicated its interest in acquiring the Lambertville Railroad Station property.

Highway Department

Mr. Jessen reported on his efforts to obtain the services of potentially under-utilized surveyors from the Department of Transportation and his conversation with Mr. Goodkind of the Department of Transportation regarding the proposed route of I-295 through Hamilton Township. There will be a public hearing regarding I-295 in 2-3 months of which the Commission will be informed. In regard to the use of DOT surveyors to determine D&R Canal property lines, Mr. Walker will investigate possibilities of matching funds or exchange of funds between DEP and DOT and inform Mr. Jessen of his findings.

Miscellaneous

Mr. Torpey reported that due to legislative commitments, Senator Bateman was unable to attend the Commission meeting as scheduled.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:30pm.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, March 18. Commission lunch will be served at 12:30pm.