

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: 25 March 1976
TIME: 12:30pm-4:30pm
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. Frank Torpey,
Mr. Ian Walker.

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

DEP: Mrs. Barbara Levin, Mr. Mel Myers

DAG: Mr. Thomas Widner

ABSENT: Ms. Lee Bullitt, Mayor Arthur Holland

GUESTS: Mr. William Stratton, engineer for Ewing
Township.

Mr. Kirkland stated that adequate notice of this special meeting of the Delaware and Raritan Canal Commission on 25 March 1976 had not been provided pursuant to P.L. 1975, Chapter 231, due to pressing administrative duties of the limited Commission staff. Notification was, however, sent to all appropriate bodies on 23 March 1976.

Mountain View Storm Drain Proposal

Mr. Stratton presented a different set of plans from those presented at the 18 March meeting. He stated that there were no alternatives in dealing with the run-off in that area with the exception of piping it under the canal and into the Delaware River which would be prohibitively expensive. Discussion followed as to whether approval for this sort of project would set an uncomfortable precedent. It was felt that this case deals with an existing condition and as such would not apply to potential new development applications. It was moved by Mr. Sayen and seconded by Mr. Torpey to accept the plans as presented noting that they are a considerable improvement over the existing condition and are different from what will apply to new development. The vote was six in favor of approval and one opposed. Mr. Jones cast the negative vote.

D&R Canal Commission's Relations with the Joint Appropriation
Committee of the New Jersey Legislature

Mr. Kirkland reported on his conversation with Eugene Schneider who suggested a slightly different approach for the Commission in dealing with the Joint Committee. At Mr. Schneider's suggestion, Mr. Kirkland has written letters from the Commission to Chairman Dwyer of the Joint Committee, Vice-Chairman Yates and Senator Merlino explaining the Commission's needs and requesting an opportunity to meet with the Joint Committee to plead the Commission's case. Senator Martindell and Assemblyman Foran will sponsor a resolution before the Joint Committee asking for the restoration of the D&RCC budget. It was decided that Commissioners will contact only those members of the Joint Committee whom they personally know.

Letters to the Commission

Mr. Kirkland read letters to the Commission from:

1. Mr. Goodkind of the Department of Transportation reporting on the Department's progress on the Environmental Impact Statement regarding the proposed route of I-295 in Hamilton Township and how it relates to the Canal Commission.
2. Mr. Houston of HUD reporting that the Canal Commission's proposal before it is still being processed and reviewed.

Mr. Jessen reported on his investigation of possible use of DOT engineers and surveyors to help the Commission in its surveying needs. Mr. Goodkind has stated that such services can only be supplied for a fee.

Jimison Property

Mr. Kirkland reported on his conversation with Mr. Edward Large, counsel for the Hunterdon County Historical Society, regarding the asking price of the Milo Jimison property. The Commission expressed interest in exploring possible purchase arrangements of the property in conjunction with the Division of Parks and Green Acres. A meeting between Mrs. Levin of the Division of Parks, a Green Acres representative, Mr. Large and Mr. Amon will be arranged to look into the matter.

Grant Offer to the Canal Commission

Mr. Burns reported on a recent conversation with a member of the public relations staff of Tenneco who suggested that the Canal Commission request a \$1000 grant from Tenneco for the purchase of the film, The D&R Canal. Tenneco is interested in having its name connected with environmental issues and would want credit on the leader of the film. Such a grant request should be submitted by April 1. Since the film will cost no more than \$250, there was discussion as to what use the balance could be put. Mr. Amon will follow up on this. Mr. Jessen recommended purchase of the film by the Commission in any case. The motion was made by Mr. Sayen to authorize Mr. Amon to approach Tenneco for a grant to

purchase the film, The D&R Canal, at a cost of \$200-\$300. If such a grant is not forthcoming, the Commission will purchase one with its funds. The motion was seconded by Mr. Torpey and passed with no dissenting votes.

Discussion of Master Plan

Mr. Amon started the discussion of the master plan as presented to the Commission. Mr. Myers presented comments and changes to the master plan on behalf of Mr. Galley and the Bureau of Water Facility Operations. These comments and changes which dealt with the Preface, the history and the goals, were read by Mr. Myers and will be typed and distributed at a later date. At Mr. Walker's suggestion, all such specific suggestions will be written and submitted to the Commission for their consideration after the master plan has been looked at and studied in its totality. Mr. Amon stated that one of the purposes of the master plan is to serve as a general framework for development of the Canal Park. Mr. Walker suggested that each Commissioner should state his opinion on the purpose of the master plan. He stressed his opinion that the initial phase of the master plan should be very specific when dealing with the goals and objectives of the master plan. He also suggested the need to establish, at the outset, agreement on the goals and objectives of the master plan among all parties involved. In order to achieve this he recommended a four step process as a working outline within which the master plan can be constructed.

1. a clear definition of the Commission's and the Department's of Environmental Protection's responsibilities as mandated by the enabling legislation.
2. a statement of the issues and problems involved in meeting this mandate.
3. a resource inventory
4. based on the above considerations, a determination of the Commission's goals and objectives.

He further suggested that this procedure be followed in close cooperation with the various municipalities and interested public groups in order to ensure the widest possible input and agreement on the ultimate goals and objectives. Discussion on the ways to work with these suggestions followed. The Commissioners all congratulated Mr. Amon on his efforts and writing. It was decided that the Commissioners would study the master plan and submit their comments in writing to Mr. Amon. It was also suggested that Mr. Amon consult with Mr. Walker on the organizational aspects of the master plan.

The Commissioners would like to explore and re-examine the Canal Park as it relates to the master plan. Mr. Amon will prepare an itinerary for this purpose.

Stony Brook Regional Sewage Authority

Mr. Walker requested that Director Robert Harvey of the Stony Brook Regional Sewage Authority appear at the next Commission meeting to discuss the Authority's relation to and impact on the Canal Park. He suggested that he and Mr. Amon meet with Mr.

minutes

-4-

Harvey before the next meeting to define specific areas to be covered at the next meeting and the time to be allowed for discussion.

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

The next Commission meeting is scheduled for 15 April 1976. Light lunch will be served at 12:30pm with the meeting to start at 1pm.