

# Delaware and Raritan Canal Commission

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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: 15 April 1976

TIME: 12:30pm-4:30pm

LOCATION: Canal House, 25 Calhoun Street, Trenton, N.J.

### ATTENDING:

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

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

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

DAG: Mr. Thomas Widner

ABSENT: Mr. Joseph Burns, Mr. Frank Torpey, Mr. Ian Walker

GUESTS: Mr. Robert Harvey, Executive Director, Stony  
Brook Regional Sewerage Authority; Ms. Adelle  
Mitchell, Executive Director, Stony Brook-  
Millstone Watersheds Association.

Mr. Kirkland stated that the requirements of the Public Meeting Law had been properly met for the Commission meeting of 15 April 1976.

### Minutes of 18 March 1976 and 25 March 1976 Meetings

It was moved by Mr. Sayen and seconded by Mr. Jessen to approve the minutes of the 18 March meeting as transcribed. All Commissioners present and voting concurred.

Mr. Widner recommended that the minutes of the 25 March meeting be amended to read:

"Mr. Kirkland stated that adequate notice of this special meeting...may not have been properly provided pursuant..."

Mr. Jones moved to approve the minutes as amended; Ms. Bullitt seconded the motion which was passed with no dissenting votes.

### Stony Brook Regional Sewerage Authority Proposals

Mr. Robert Harvey discussed the Authority, its purpose, the area it covers and the various plans under consideration by it. All the plans under serious consideration by the Authority have an interceptor line running near the canal from Harrison Street in Princeton Township to the River Road plant and a crossing under the canal in the Kingston area. The Commission expressed its concern over what impact this would have on the Canal Park. Mr. Amon stated these concerns specifically as:

1. The result of clearing the treed, buffer area to install line between the canal and the planned PRD area in West Windsor;
2. The impact on the Canal Park in those areas where interceptors actually enter the park;
3. The growth which sewers bring to an area and the relationship of this to the D&RCC's role as a regional planning agency.

Mr. Harvey stated that all plans of the SBRSA must be approved by the DEP and the EPA and that all plans are constantly being reviewed by the DEP. Ms. Mitchell explained the views of the Stony Brook-Millstone Watersheds Association as the watersheds are affected by the prospect of sewers in the area. Mr. Galley stated that BWFO is concerned in the SBRSA only where the line runs under the canal. Mr. Harvey expressed his desire to work closely with the Commission in those areas of concern to the Canal Park.

### Correspondence

Mr. Kirkland read a letter from Senator Merlino in response to Mr. Kirkland's letter requesting an appearance before the Joint Appropriations Committee. Senator Merlino stated that there was little else the Commission could do in support of its budget restoration but that he felt there was little to worry about.

Mr. Kirkland read a letter of resignation effective May 1 from Mrs. Ranney. It was moved by Mr. Jessen and seconded by Ms. Bullitt to accept the resignation with regret. The motion was passed with no dissenting votes.

### Mountain View Road Storm Drain

A re-vote on the Mountain View Road storm drain proposal as presented at the 25 March meeting was taken. The motion to approve the plans as submitted at that meeting was made by Mr. Sayen and seconded by Mr. Jessen. The motion was passed with Mr. Jones casting the single dissenting vote.

Mr. Myers reported that he has learned that due to increased costs of implementing Ewing Township's plan as approved by the Commission on 25 March, the Township was now abandoning that plan in favor of hooking into the Department of Transportation's existing drainage system for which no D&RCC approval is needed. Such a permit has already been granted by BWFO and no additional permit is needed to add more water to such a storm drain. Mr. Galley will write a letter of concern to Ewing Township. A resolution expressing the Commission's position on this new development to read:

"The Delaware and Raritan Canal Commission is concerned with possible bank erosion if the plans as submitted by Ewing Town-

ship engineer, William Stratton, to the Commission and approved by it on 25 March 1976 are not followed. Additional approval may be required if the above plans are not followed." was moved by Ms. Bullitt and seconded by Mayor Holland. The motion was passed with Mr. Jones casting the single dissenting vote.

#### Re-vote of Tenneco Grant Application

As stated at the 25 March meeting, it was moved by Mr. Jessen and seconded by Ms. Bullitt to pursue a grant for film purchase from Tenneco. The motion was passed with no dissenting votes.

#### Leases

Mr. Amon described the two leases under consideration this month, both for canoe rental operations. The motion to renew the leases to Mr. Abbott of Titusville and Mr. Bernard of Kingston was made by Mr. Sayen and seconded by Mayor Holland. The motion was passed with no dissenting votes.

Mr. Widner suggested an amendment to the minutes of the 20 November 1975 meeting regarding the D&RCC's approval of leases. It was moved by Mr. Jones to accept the amendment, to read:

"Leases are approved generally by the Delaware and Raritan Canal Commission but, in accordance with a letter from Executive Director, James Amon, to Commissioner David J. Bardin, in the normal course of business the Commission does not have the expertise to review the appropriateness of the fee but generally will rely upon the Department of Environmental Protection and its appraisors to determine the proper fee."

Mr. Jessen seconded the motion which was passed with no dissenting votes.

#### Bureau of Water Facility Operations Proposal for Tow Path and Flood Guard in Lawrence Township

A more thorough discussion of this proposal and Andropogon Associates suggestions for the area will be held at a later date after the Commission and Mr. Galley have had the opportunity to study the design suggestions and planting ideas put forth by Andropogon Associates. Mrs. Levin reported that the Division of Parks was waiting to coordinate their proposals with the BWFO and in consideration of the Commission's master plan for the Canal Park. The Commission discussed possible surfaces for the tow path in this area. It was agreed that a strong foundation would be necessary for Mr. Galley's needs and that grass cover should be planted as quickly as possible. Tree removal and the clearing of underbrush was discussed. Mr. Galley suggested proceeding with the project to meet the minimum requirements necessary to achieve BWFO standards and to coordinate beautification and park maintenance aspects with the Division of Parks when that stage is reached. He sees this section of tow path renovation as serving as a demonstration roadway for the rest of the canal.

#### Commission Response to Letter Received from SBRSA Attorney

The Commission is in receipt of a letter from the legal counsel

for the SBRSA. The Commission has referred this matter to Mr. Widner and authorized him to respond in the appropriate manner.

Somerset County Proposal for a Bridge over the Millstone River for the Griggstown Causeway

Mr. Amon gave a brief description of the situation involving Somerset County's proposal to construct a two lane bridge over the Millstone River in Griggstown to replace the existing single lane bridge. Discussion followed regarding the increased traffic flow which would probably result from such a bridge through the Canal Park and what, if any, authority the Commission has if no state owned land is involved. Mr. Widner suggested checking what state approval may be required in order for Somerset County to proceed with its plans. It was decided that Mr. Amon will try to locate the deed to the land involved to clarify ownership; will invite Somerset County Freeholder Nevins to the next regular Commission meeting to discuss the project and to convey to him the potential detrimental effect such a project will have on the Canal Park. The Commission expressed its desire to try to preserve the character of such small towns along the canal where possible.

Photographic Exhibit Proposal

Mrs. Ranney explained the proposed photographic exhibit being considered for educational and publicity purposes. The means of funding such a project was discussed. The formation of a group of interested citizens to be called "Friends of the D&R Canal" which could act as a fund raising arm of the Commission was suggested. No decision was reached on how to proceed on this matter.

Logo

This matter will be discussed at a future meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

A special meeting to discuss the preliminary draft of the master plan will be held on Thursday, April 29 at 2pm at the Canal House.