

MINUTES OF MEETING

DATE: 20 May 1976
TIME: 12:30pm-4:30pm
LOCATION: Canal House, 25 Calhoun Street, Trenton, N.J.
ATTENDING:

COMMISSION: Mr. Benjamin Kirkland, Mr. Martin Jessen,
Ms. Lee Bullitt, Mr. Joseph Burns, Mr.
Arthur Holland, Mr. James Sayen, Mr. Frank
Torpey.

COMMISSION STAFF: Mr. James Amon

DEP: Ms. Barbara Levin, Mr. Michael Galley, Mr. Eugene
Gross, Mr. Melvin Meyers.

ABSENT: Mr. Donald Jones, Mr. Ian Walker

GUEST: Jacob Toporek, Special Assistant to the Governor;
Mr. Ronald Bond, Mr. James Moise, and Ms. Elizabeth
Davison, all from the D&R Canal Coalition.

Mr. Kirkland stated that the requirements of the Public Meeting
Law had been properly met for the Commission meeting of 20 May
1976.

Minutes of 29 April 1976 and 10 May 1976 Meetings

A number of spelling errors were pointed out in the minutes
of both meetings. A motion was made by Mr. Sayen and seconded
by Ms. Bullitt to approve the minutes of both meetings but to
correct spelling errors as they occurred. The motion was
passed with no dissenting votes.

Property Owned by the City of Trenton Near Scudders Falls

Mr. Holland said that he has informed City officials that the Canal Commission has placed a high priority on acquiring this land and that the City should make the land available to the Commission at a fair price. He said that people are presently living there and the City would like to continue their occupancy, perhaps for their lifetime. Mr. Holland urged that the Commission act to acquire the land as soon as possible.

Other Land Acquisitions

Mr. Amon reported that he recently attended a meeting with several representatives of the D.E.P. and they were recommending that a parcel of land immediately downstream from the City-owned property be transferred to the Canal Park.

Ms. Bullitt brought up the subject of the Bogan property in Franklin Township. The Township may not acquire this property but it is essential for access to the Canal Park; no other public access exists along Easton Ave. It was decided to add the Bogan property to our recommended acquisition list. Mr. Amon mentioned that the property across Easton Ave., next to McAtter's Restaurant is part of the restaurant lot. This was also recommended for addition to our list. A motion was made by Mr. Sayen and seconded by Ms. Bullitt to write to Green Acres recommending acquisition of the lot land near Scudders Falls and to add the Bogan property and the McAtter property to our recommended acquisitions list. The motion passed without opposition. The Commission agreed to assign priority to the properties on our recommended acquisition list at the June meeting.

Leases

Mr. Amon reported that there are four leases requiring Commission approval. He recommended that the lease with C.A. Neice be approved but the others--one with Public Opinion Surveys and two with Mr. Loveday--should not be approved until problems can be resolved. Mr. Torpey made a motion and Ms. Bullitt seconded to approve the lease with Neice and to hold the others until the problems could be resolved. The motion was passed with no dissenting votes.

Maintenance of the Canal Park

The Commission has expressed great concern about the possibility of instituting a maintenance program. Mr. Amon was instructed to investigate the prison work-release program and the possibility of CETA Personnel. Mr. Amon will take these issues up with Mr. Guido in an interview to be held as soon as possible.

Sale of Land Near Golden Nugget Flea Market

A motion was made by Ms. Bullitt and seconded by Mr. Holland that, based on the Commission's decision that this parcel is not needed for the Canal Park, the parcel of state-owned land East of Rt. 29 should be sold. The motion was passed with no dissenting votes.

Jimison Property

Mr. Amon reported that Mr. Large of the Hunterdon County Historical and Cultural Society has given the State an ultimatum on acquisition of the Jimison property. If the State wants to, it can purchase the property for \$20,000. If not, the Society will give it to a realtor for the sale on the open market. Mr. Large's offer is being considered by the Division of Parks. The Commission still would like to have the property for the Canal Park.

National Endowment for the Arts Grants

Mr. Amon reported that he would like to apply for a National Endowment for the Arts Grant in order to produce a booklet that would provide a design vocabulary for architectural and landscape architectural features of the Canal Park. This project would cost about \$20,000--half of which would be funded by NEA. A motion was made by Mr. Sayen and seconded by Ms. Bullitt authorizing the director to apply for this grant. The motion was passed with no dissenting votes.

Lawrence Township Towpath Project

Mr. Galley and Mr. Gross presented the Bureau of Water Facility Operations' proposal for reconstruction of the tow path in Lawrence Township. Mr. Galley explained that his plans call for an eight foot roadway and the removal of all trash and debris and the improvement of the flood guard. Mr. Galley said that he is not going to remove vines or conduct an extensive replanting program because those are issues for the Division of Parks and Forestry to pursue. Mr. Jessen suggested that the roadway be changed from 5 inches of quarry process stones and one inch of crushed stone screenings to 6 inches of quarry process without the crushed stone screening. Mr. Galley said that he would be happy with this solution. Mr. Holland made a motion and Mr. Jessen seconded to approve the plans for reconstruction of the tow path as presented by Mr. Galley with the above mentioned change in the roadway. The motion was passed without opposition.

Somerset County's Bicentennial Path Signs

Mr. Amon and Ms. Levin presented photographs of the sign that Somerset County plans to put along the Canal tow path to mark their Bicentennial Path. Mr. Amon explained that the Division of Parks and Forestry will have to give its approval of the proposal and they do not yet have all the information that they will need. Mr. Jessen moved and Mr. Torpey seconded a motion to approve the proposed sign subject to approval by the Division of Parks and Forestry and

contingent upon Somerset County's willingness to have the Commission's sign on the same post. The motion passed without opposition.

D&R Canal Coalition Plans for a "Canal Day"

Mr. Ronald Bond, President of the Coalition, Mrs. Davison, and Mr. Moise presented the Coalition's plans to designate October 2nd as a day on which activity would take place along the entire length of the canal. The Commission responded with great enthusiasm, recommending that the Coalition keep in touch with the Commission as their plans develop and to work with the adjacent county and municipal park commissions.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30

The next meeting of the Commission is scheduled for 17 June 1976 at 12:30 pm.