



MINUTES OF THE MEETING

DATE: 15 July 1976

TIME: 12:30 p.m. - 5:20 p.m.

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

ATTENDING:

COMMISSION: Ms. Lee Bullitt, Mr. Donald Jones, Mr. Martin Jessen, Ms. Betty Wilson, Mr. Benjamin B. Kirkland, Mr. Frank Torpey

COMMISSION STAFF: Mr. James C. Amon, Mrs. Nancy J. Di Salvi

DAG: Thomas Weidner, Esquire

DEP: Mr. Melvin Myers

ABSENT: Mayor Arthur Holland, Mr. Joseph Burns, Mr. James C. Sayen

GUESTS: Mr. Bruce Newling, Chairman of Citizen's Committee for Environmental Protection; Mr. Fritts Golden and Mr. John Rogers, Environmental Consultants & Land Use Planners; Mrs. Leslie Sauer and Mr. Collin Franklin of Andropogon Associates, Ecological Planning & Design; Mr. Dennis Whigham, Rider College Biology Department staff member.

Chairman, Benjamin B. Kirkland, brought the meeting to order, then stated that the requirements of the Public Meeting Law had been properly met for the Commission meeting of 15 July 1976.

Minutes of 17 June 1976 Meeting

It was moved by Mr. Jessen, and seconded by Ms. Bullitt, to accept the minutes of 17 June 1976 meeting as transcribed. All Commissioners present and voting concurred.

COMMISSIONERS

Benjamin B. Kirkland <i>Chairman</i>	Martin D. Jessen <i>Vice-Chairman</i>	Donald B. Jones <i>Treasurer</i>	David J. Bardin Lee Bullitt	Joseph H. Burns Arthur J. Holland	James C. Sayen Frank J. Torpey
James C. Amon <i>Executive Director</i>					

Quarterly Financial Report (18 March-30 June 1976)

The financial report was reviewed and approved by the Commission, Mr. Jessen making the motion and Ms. Bullitt seconding same, with no dissenting votes. Mr. Jones brought up the fact that as of the close of the 1976 fiscal year there are no accruals, and no outstanding bills.

It was moved by Mr. Jessen and seconded by Ms. Bullitt that the Commission spend up to \$2,500.00 for the production of maps for the master plan. This sum is in addition to the \$2,500.00 agreed upon by the Commission at its meeting of 15 January 1976.

Proposed Budget

Jim Amon explained each item in the proposed budget for the 1977 fiscal year showing our new \$130,000.00 allocation. Minor changes were made in the proposed budget before a motion for its approval was introduced by Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mr. Torpey. There were no dissenting votes.

Water Quality Study (hydrolic/limnologic)

Jim Amon reported that he felt that General Whipple's (Director of Water Resources, Rutgers University) proposals (per letter 30 June 1976) for water quality studies along the canal were much too sophisticated for the Commission's use and needs for water pollution research at this time, and that a more general type of analysis is required for the Commission's initial work on this subject.

Commissioner Wilson reported that she had spoken with Dr. Preuss (Cancer and the Environment report) regarding the possibility of our water quality studies being duplicative with the State studies but he assured her that he felt the studies & research on water pollution would be beneficial and complementary serving as additional documentation to the findings of the State program.

Comprehensive Historic Sites Survey

Jim Amon reported that he had met with Mr. David Gibson, of Columbia University and the N.J. School of Architecture regarding the preparation of a comprehensive historic sites survey for the Commission. Mr. Gibson will hire students to do drafting and research work, he will have access to the computer and other resources at the N.J. School of Architecture, and he will help us secure a grant to further his project. Mr. Gibson's proposed project was approved by the Commission as a part of the 1977 fiscal year budget.

"Thank you" Note

It was proposed that letters of thanks be sent to each of the members of the Joint Appropriations Committee for their support in securing our allocation for the 1977 fiscal year.

Surplus Properties at Six Mile Run Reservoir

Jim Amon reported on surplus state-owned properties at Six Mile Run Reservoir, and the Commission supported Parks' request to use some of the lands. None of the other lands were of interest to the Commission for future acquisitions related to the Canal Park. Ms. Bullitt made the motion, which was seconded by Mr. Jessen, with no dissenting votes.

Land Use Regulation Planning Program

The Commissioners agreed that Mr. Amon be granted power to choose a planner, narrowing his choices down to 4 or 5 firms, and then presenting them to the Commission for its opinions.

Commissioner Wilson suggested that Mr. Amon speak with DEP regarding their Flood Plain Delineation Contract in order to learn how they selected a planner. The Commissioners expressed the desire to be competitive and fair, thus giving a great number of planners a chance to prove that they can provide the best program for the Commission's purposes while enabling the Commission to remain objective.

Mr. Torpey suggested that a planner be chosen by the Somerset County Park Commission method, which allows each planner to submit a general proposal to be used as a guideline which will meet the standards of the project together with proposed costs to complete the project.

It was resolved that Mr. Amon will check with DEP and legal advisors to see what state requirements apply to the Commission and then he will proceed from there at his own discretion in selecting a planner.

Discussion of Route 18

Tom Weidner reported on the opinion of the Attorney General in connection with the Commission's question of jurisdiction over the proposed Route 18 project, stating that the lands in question are not included in the Canal Park but that they may be included in the Review Zone when it is established.

Mr. Bruce Newling of the Citizens' Committee for Environmental Protection reported on various technical aspects of possible impact on the Canal Park from flooding upstream of the Landing Lane Bridge.

Ms. Bullitt reported that the firm of King & Gavaris prepared both the alignment for Route 18, as well as the computer analysis print-out which she feels presents a conflict of interest, and that an independent group, such as the Army Corp. of Engineers, be summoned as experts to report on flooding impact on the Canal Park as a result of Route 18.

Mr. Newling stated that the proposed Route 18 will reduce the flood

plain area by 35% of its original capacity during a 100-year storm.

Commissioner Wilson stated that there seemed to be conflicting evidence on the impact of this proposal on the Canal Park and that the Commission request that the Water Policy & Supply Council require further research in order to ascertain the exact extent of the impact.

Mr. Torpey felt that the Commission should express concern and its opinion at the hearing scheduled by DOT for Monday 26 July, but state also that it is not within its legal jurisdiction to make a decision.

Mr. Kirkland stated that as Chairman of the Commission he would attend the hearing and express the Commission's concern that the Route 18 bridge development might adversely effect upstream flooding within the Canal Park. Tom Weidner, Betty Wilson, Donald Jones and Jim Amon all agreed to attend the hearing also. Lee Bullitt stated that she would attend as a representative of the Coalition.

At this point an informal report is being rendered in the absence of a quorum (Only Ms. Bullitt, Mr. Jones, Ms. Wilson, and Mr. Kirkland remained from the Commission; Mr. Myers, Mr. Weidner, Mr. Amon, and Mrs. Di Salvi were also present.

Vegetation Survey

The remaining Commissioners gave Mr. Amon the authority to choose a firm for the vegetation survey. They heard the reports from each of the following three firms which were represented and stated that Mr. Amon was better qualified to select a consultant for the vegetation survey and offered their support.

(Please refer to the printed material which was handed out at the 15 July meeting by each of the planning firms for a more detailed presentation of their proposals.)

ROGERS & GOLDEN:

1. John Rogers and Fritts Golden feel that a vegetation report is important as a foundation to understanding many kinds of natural activities along the canal. Vegetation types influence run-off, erosion, water quality, aesthetic value of the canal, recreation, water resources, soils, etc.
2. Rogers and Golden are familiar with many of the areas of the canal and have done much work in the watershed areas in previous studies.
3. They feel confident that their methods of research are standard

4. Watersheds and streams will be studied adjacent to the Canal. (There will be a one-half mile corridor on either side of the canal.)
5. Within the map of the corridor (linear) there will be a species association report and general identification of specimens which will identify vegetation by predominant species in a certain area or characteristic communities of vegetation.
6. Succession report will show new growth, mature forest, etc., and how types of vegetation relate to land use (e.g. picnic areas and hiking, etc.).
7. Specific vegetation sampling identifying specimens (count) and distance between trees will not be included in this vegetation survey.
8. Special areas, such as recommendations for acquisition, will be included in the analysis.

WHIGHAM & SIMPSON:

1. Mr. Whigham's proposal included analysis of vegetation for a corridor along the canal but did not include the watersheds of streams entering the Canal Park. This omission would make their proposal less effective for Review Zone use.
2. Actual and potential vegetation data will be provided in the Whigham and Simpson survey.
3. Wildflower survey of canal corridor was included but the Commission and Mr. Amon agreed that it was not necessary for the effectiveness of the survey, however nice it would be to have this information.
4. Mr. Whigham said that he has credentials to qualify as an expert in case legal problems relating to the vegetation survey should arise.
5. Maps will be on a 1" = 200' scale, with corridor areas divided into one mile sections.
6. 90-95% of the survey will be completed by February 1977, however, if the wildflower study is included, the project could not be completed until Spring of 1977.

Mr. Mel Myers expressed that he was impressed by each of the above candidates and their expertise in presenting their proposals. He also reported that BWFO will have maps ready for use by the Commission by mid-October (1" = 40, with corridor area being 300 feet on either side of the canal).

The meeting was adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

The next meeting of the Commission is scheduled for 19 August 1976 at 12:30 p.m.