



MINUTES OF THE MEETING

DATE: 19 August 1976
TIME: 12:30 - 4:45 p.m.
LOCATION: 25 Calhoun Street, The Canal House, Trenton, N. J.
ATTENDING:

Commission: Mr. Benjamin B. Kirkland, Mayor Arthur Holland, Mr. James Sayen, Ms. Lee Bullitt, Mr. Donald B. Jones, Mr. Martin D. Jessen, Mr. Ian Walker representing Betty Wilson.

Staff: Mr. James C. Amon, Nancy J. Di Salvi

DEP: Mr. Melvin Myers, Mr. Eugene Gross (BWFO)

Absent: Mr. Joseph Burns, Mr. Frank Torpey

Guests: Mr. James Coleman, Robert L. Solan, Esquire, Chief of DEP legal department, Mr. Bruce A. Hamilton, Mrs. Ursala Buchanan and Betty Davison representing the Canal Coalition, Mr. Philip Minis, of Princeton Environmental Commission, and Mr. Alfred Busselle of the Princeton Historical Commission.

Chairman, Benjamin B. Kirkland, brought the meeting to order and stated that the requirements of the Public Meetings Law had been properly met for the meeting of the D. & R. Canal Commission of 19 August 1976.

Slide Show

Jim Amon introduced Mr. Coleman who presented a slide show from his collection of several thousand photographs of the canal and adjacent areas. Mr. Amon proposed that the Canal Commission approve purchase of 80 slides for \$500. The Commissioners felt that some of the shots were not of absolute necessity to a Canal Commission slide show (for presentation at public hearings, as accompaniments to publications, press releases, master plan additions, etc.), and that a portion of the slides be purchased from Mr. Coleman and the rest be obtained from other sources. It was agreed that this matter would be discussed at a later date and no resolution was made.

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>					

Minutes of 15 July 1976 Meeting

Mel Myers of BWFO requested that the minutes be changed to state that his office will have preliminary maps of the canal from the Trenton Battle Monument to Washington Crossing by October. The 15 July minutes gave the impression that the entire mapping would be completed by October. The 15 July minutes were then accepted as amended. The motion was made by Ms. Bullitt for approval and seconded by Mr. Jones. There were no dissenting votes.

Swearing-In Ceremony

Mr. Bruce A. Hamilton was sworn in by Robert L. Solan, Esquire, Chief of the DEP legal department, as Commissioner to the Delaware and Raritan Canal Commission in the place of Ms. Lee Bullitt, whose resignation was to be effective upon the appointment and swearing-in of her replacement.

Review of Vegetation Contract

Mr. Solan also reviewed the contract between Rogers & Golden, Inc. and the Delaware and Raritan Canal Commission and stated that it was legal as written, however, he advised that a new contract be drawn in proper legal form including general statutory requirements. Mr. Solan did not see a need for changes in the Scope of Work section of the contract. The payment schedule will also be changed to one-third upon the signing of the contract, one-third upon completion of satisfactory progress, and one-third upon completion of all work.

Mr. Solan will prepare the contract in conjunction with the following resolution:

It is resolved that a contract between the D & R Canal Commission and Rogers & Golden, Inc. for the D & R Canal Commission vegetation study in the amount of \$9,800. be approved and that the contract be drafted, and reviewed and executed by the Executive Director of the D & R. Canal Commission, James C. Amon, and a representative of Rogers & Golden, Inc.

A motion for the approval of the above resolution was made by Mayor Holland, and seconded by Mr. Jones, and passed with no dissenting votes by the Commissioners. Mr. Martin Jessen abstained from voting.

Mr. Jones has prepared a list for Mr. Amon's review regarding the vegetation study; and Mr. Hamilton was asked to act as an expert witness on behalf of the Canal Commission to review the vegetation study in order to determine its "satisfactory progress".

Princeton Basin Discussion

Mr. Alfred Busselle, representing the Princeton Historical Society, presented its plans for development of township-owned lands near the canal. He displayed maps and drawings by Zion & Breen which include boat launching facilities, picnic areas, dredging the turning basin and building a bridge over the channel between the basin and canal.

The Historical Society is interested in developing nodes as access points to the canal at Kingston, Alexander Street, and near Quaker Bridge Road.

Mr. Philip Minis reported that the Environmental Commission (Princeton Township) wants to clear some brush, put in some benches, create parking for some 50 cars, have picnic tables, launching sites for canoes (on both the canal side and the Stony Brook side) and install toilet facilities after the State has dredged and opened the turning basin and bridged the channel between the basin and the canal.

Mr. Sayen made a motion for the D & R Canal Commission to approve the opening of the turning basin and give authorization to Jim Amon to investigate the proper channels and authority in order to accomplish same, and report back to the Commission at a later date; seconded by Mr. Jones, with no dissenting votes.

Discussion of Kingston to New Brunswick Towpath Improvement

Mrs. Ursula Buchanan and Mrs. Betty Davison, representing the Canal Coalition, were present and stated their dissatisfaction with the material which was placed upon the towpath in the Griggstown area. The orange sandy loam substance is not native to that area, is unnatural in color, and is unpleasant to walk on.

Mr. Eugene Gross of BWFO reported that the sandy substance has not yet been compacted while waiting for a ruling on the type of grass seed to be planted. Mr. Gross stated that compaction of the soil and seeding will reduce erosion into the canal and will look attractive once the sandy loam is hidden by grass. The towpath improvement is necessary in order to use trucks and other equipment for repairs to the canal banks.

Ms. Bullitt suggested that the width of the towpath and weight limits be taken into consideration at future meetings in the best interest of the future of the Canal Park towpath. She stressed the recreational and aesthetic value of the Canal Park towpath, and stated that these values should not always be sacrificed in the interests of the most convenient methods of repair.

Upon Mr. Hamilton's suggestion it was resolved that BWFO will consult with Dr. Robert Duel, a resident of Griggstown and professor at Cook College who advises DOT on the establishment of grasses best suited for their projects. BWFO will follow Dr. Duel's suggestion and plant grass according to his advice. The motion recommending this action was made by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. Sayen, with no dissenting votes.

Mel Myers reported that towpath "construction" will be completed by the third week of September, at which time seeding will be able to begin.

Scudder Falls Property Discussion

It was resolved that Mr. Kirkland form a committee to look into all

ways and alternatives of acquiring Scudder Falls property for the Canal Park (one of the possibilities discussed was a trade of lands between the State, which owns property leased by Apex Lumber Mart in the City of Trenton, and the City of Trenton, which owns Scudder Falls property.) The trade of lands would allow the City to sell the land to Apex or another party for a profit and obtain a tax ratable.

A motion was made by Mr. Jessen to look into the possibilities of acquisition of the Scudder Falls property and seconded by Mr. Sayen, with no dissenting votes.

Water Quality Review

Mr. Amon reported that after his water quality report was mailed he was informed by the DEP's Water Resources Division that they would help him with a program for water quality testing. He suggested, therefore, that nothing be done on this issue at the present.

Approval of Leases and Permits

Per Mr. Amon's memo to the Commissioners of 12 August 1976 for the approval of 8 leases, a motion was made by Mr. Jessen accepting same, seconded by Mr. Sayen, with no dissenting votes.

Further discussion followed regarding two other leases and permits, one by Etta Kent, approval of which is being held pending an investigation of the possible messy conditions which her place of business is creating; the other lease of Apex Lumber Mart, Inc. is pending approval until such time as it is determined whether or not the City of Trenton and the Canal Commission can use this property in a trade of lands.

DEP Critique of Draft Master Plan

Mr. Amon reported that the master plan cannot be revised until such time as DEP agencies send their written comments and suggestions for additions, corrections, etc. Mr. Ian Walker advised that Mr. Amon contact Mr. Larry Schmidt, of Environmental Review and request that he solicit comments from other state agencies for the review of the draft master plan.

Organizations for Commission to Join

It was agreed that it would be useful for the Commission to join several organizations in order to be kept informed of their activities. It was further agreed that memberships should be taken out by Mr. Amon at Commission expense.

Report on Route 18 Hearing

Ms. Bullitt reported that it now appears that the Route 18 construction will eventually become a reality. Mr. Jessen suggested that the Commission inspect the "deep lock" and salvage any materials that

might be of use to the Commission (for memorabilia, parts, etc.); consult with Mr. Burns and/or Mr. Bruce Newling regarding this matter.

It was moved by Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mr. Sayen, with no dissenting votes, that Mr. Amon submit a statement on behalf of the Canal Commission in the form of an amendment to change the wording of the Assembly bill, No. 2160.

Ethics Code Discussion

It was agreed that the above subject discussion would be postponed until Ms. Wilson return from her vacation since she instituted this issue.

Change of Meeting Time

It was agreed that the Delaware and Raritan Canal Commission shall hold its future meetings on the Fourth Tuesday of each month, and that all concerned parties be notified in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act ("Sunshine Law").

Request for Raise by the Executive Director

Discussion and approval was granted for a raise of 12%, including a 7% State increment (retroactive from July 1, 1976), plus a 5% Commission increment, effective on Mr. Amon's anniversary date (8 September 1975).

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m.