



MINUTES OF THE MEETING

DATE: 23 November 1976
TIME: 12:30 to 4:15 P.M.
LOCATION: The Canal House, 25 Calhoun Street,
Trenton, N.J.

ATTENDING:

Commission: Mr. Burns, Mr. Jones, Mr. Kirkland,
Mr. Torpey, Ms. Wilson, Mr. Hamilton,
Mayor Holland, and Mr. Sayen

Staff: Mr. Amon and Mrs. Brown

DAG: Steven Gray, Esquire

DEP: Mr. Frank Rigg, Chief, Bureau of Parks
Mr. Mike Galley, Chief, Bureau of Water
Facility Operations
Mr. Al Guido, Director, Division of Parks
and Forestry
Mr. Gene Gross, BWFO
Mr. Eric Pearl, Assistant to Commissioner
Wilson

Guests: Mrs. Lura Gund and Mrs. Abigail Barrows,
Somerset Citizens for Environmental
Protection

ABSENT: Mr. Jessen

Chairman 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 Delaware and Raritan Canal Commission on 23 November 1976.

EXECUTIVE	COMMISSIONERS					
DIRECTOR	Benjamin B. Kirkland	Martin D. Jessen	Donald B. Jones	David J. Bardin	Joseph H. Burns	James C. Sayen
James C. Amon	<i>Chairman</i>	<i>Vice-Chairman</i>	<i>Treasurer</i>	Bruce A. Hamilton	Arthur J. Holland	Frank J. Torpey

NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
Brendan Byrne, *Governor* David J. Bardin, *Commissioner*

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Minutes of 26 October 1976 Meeting

It was moved by Mr. Hamilton and seconded by Mr. Torpey to accept the minutes of the 26 October 1976 meeting as transcribed; all Commissioners present and voting concurred.

Discussion of next year's meeting time

The suggestion to change the meeting day from the fourth Tuesday of the month to another day was discussed. An alternate day that was suggested is the fourth Monday of the month. The final decision will be made by the Commissioners in the December meeting.

Bogan House in Franklin Township

Mr. Hamilton stated that Franklin Township has the opportunity to obtain the Bogan House and estate which borders the canal. The ownership of this land by the Township would provide a good public access to the canal and the Canal Park. The Commission stated that it would write a letter to the Township indicating its support of the Township's acquisition of the property.

Review and Approval of the contract with Rogers and Golden for completion of the Soil Survey

The contract with Rogers and Golden for completion of the Soil Survey was motioned for approval by Mr. Jones, and seconded by Mr. Hamilton. There were no dissenting votes.

Report on the use of the canal bed in Hamilton Township as a dump

Mr. Galley would like to continue to use a portion of the main canal south of Lalor Street as a landfill operation. Services for a dumpster have been contracted to collect large household trash items. However, there is still a need for disposal of vegetative trash. This problem was discussed at the October meeting and consequently Mr. Amon, Mr. Sayen, Mr. Galley, and Mr. Gross visited the dump site at the canal to review the situation. Their agreement at the site was to have a barrier placed as close to the present terminus of the filled area as is practical, and then to turn back and fill over the first layer of landfill.

Mr. Galley presented another solution at the meeting because he believes that the original solution of back landfill would be too costly. The expense would come from the necessary construction of a claylined barrier on the top sides of the canal in order to level with the floodguard embankments. Subsequently, Mr. Gross and Mr. Galley proposed that the BWFO be permitted to continue to fill the canal 200 feet down from the present stopping point. This would extend the originally agreed upon stopping point. Mr. Gross explained that a second reason for extending the dumping is that the bed of the canal is ideal for landfill use because there is no problem of seepage. Thus, it would be easier to continue to use the bed of the canal, as opposed to using the already filled portion of the canal which would require a claylined barrier on the sides.

Mr. Amon strongly objected to Mr. Galley's proposal. He felt that the fill should be stopped as near the present stopping point as possible and not be extended. Concern was expressed for the future land area of adjacent Roebling Park which will border the landfill area of the canal. To continue to landfill the canal would cut out the possibilities of future canal use in conjunction with Roebling Park.

The Commission agreed upon the following resolution: The Bureau of Water Facility Operations may fill up to the distance of the treeline as recognized by the sub-committee, or for up to one year's time. Mr. Gross will survey the distance to the treeline for an exact measurement. During this one year's time, further solutions should be sought. The Commission agreed to put this conceptual agreement in writing so that Mr. Galley may present it when seeking a permit from the Division of Solid Waste. Mr. Jones motioned for acceptance of the conceptual approval, and Ms. Wilson seconded.

Discussion of the Scudder Falls Property

Mayor Holland stated that the Trenton City Council has proposed that the Canal Commission acquire 5 acres of land upstream of the property with houses. The remainder of the property would be sold to the present residents. Mr. Amon presented a letter from Mr. Dougherty stating the position of the Trenton City Council. The area in question concerns 11 houses privately owned and three privately owned sports clubs. At a meeting on 16 September 1976 of the New Jersey

Department of Environmental Protection, the City of Trenton, and the Canal Commission three ways of dealing with different kinds of property were proposed:

1. Properties belonging to the Summer residents should be acquired outright.
2. Properties belonging to the year around residents should be acquired only by a lifetime lease arrangement wherein the occupants can continue living in the houses as long as they like yet they may not sell the property.
3. Sporting clubs could continue occupancy as long as they are performing in the interest of the public.

There was discussion of further alternatives to the above three solutions. Mayor Holland stated that he would meet with both the sporting clubs and the summer residents in the near future. It was established that Mr. Guido, Mr. Amon, Mayor Holland, and Mr. Clarke visit the property and report to the Commissioner's meeting in December.

Griggstown Bridge

Mrs. Gund and Mrs. Barrows of the Somerset Citizens for Environmental Protection presented material on the Griggstown Bridge to the Commissioners. The material was concerned with the possibility of the Griggstown Bridge being offered to the Canal Commission by the Somerset Freeholders. The Commission's majority felt that there should not be a verbal presentation nor should the situation be discussed at the present moment because there had been no attempt on the part of the Somerset Freeholders to contact the Canal Commission. Both Mr. Sayen and Mr. Hamilton opposed the majority's decision and wanted to hear the verbal presentation of the material. Ms. Wilson said that the Department of Environmental Protection would write a letter to the Somerset Freeholders informing them of the correct and necessary procedures in such a move. A copy of the letter will be sent to Mrs. Gund. It was also pointed out that if the Freeholders do propose to give the bridge to the Commission, they must first approach the Bureau of Parks and Forestry in the DEP.

Review of the revised master plan and setting of dates for public hearings

Mr. Amon passed a copy of the revised master plan to each Commissioner. It was decided that the Commission would hold 5 public hearings because the hearings would provide an excellent means for public input. There will be one public hearing in each of Somerset, Hunterdon, and Middlesex Counties, and 2 public hearings in Mercer County. Mr. Amon

and Mrs. Brown will be responsible for scheduling these hearings and will inform the Commission of the schedule at the December meeting.

Ms. Wilson suggested that the Commission provide a limited number gratuitous copies of the master plan for public use (i.e. libraries, clerk offices etc.) but that the Commission charge for copies intended for private use. The charge would be strictly to cover the Commission's costs. Mr. Gray will check into the legalities of the Commission accepting a money charge for the books. Mr. Sayen motioned to accept the charge for private books and Mr. Torpey seconded the motion with no dissenting votes.

Slide Show

A slide show was presented with focus on the San Antonio, Texas, waterfront, the canal in Trenton, and the Mill Hill Park in Trenton.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:15 P.M.