



MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON 11 APRIL, 1977

TIME: 12:30 to 3:15 p.m.
 PLACE: The Canal House, 25 Calhoun Street,
 Trenton, N.J.
 DATE: Monday, 11 April, 1977

ATTENDING:

Commissioners: Mr. Kirkland, Mr. Jones, Mr. Jessen,
 Mayor Holland, and Ms. Wilson

Staff: Mr. Amon and Mrs. Brown

DEP: Mr. Michael Galley, Chief, Bureau of
 Water Facility Operations
 Mr. Frank Rigg, Chief, Bureau of Parks
 Mr. Eric Pearl, Assistant to Commissioner
 Wilson

DAG: Mr. Steven Gray

ABSENT: Mr. Sayen, Mr. Burns, and Mr. Torpey

GUESTS: Mrs. Jessamine Merrill, League of Women
 Voters, 208 Task Force
 Mr. Philip Minis, Chairman, Princeton
 Township Environmental Commission

Chairman Kirkland brought the meeting to order and stated that the requirements of the Public Meeting Law had been properly met for the meeting of the Delaware and Raritan Canal Commission meeting on 11 April, 1977.

MINUTES OF MEETING 14 MARCH 1977

Mr. Jones moved to accept the minutes of the meeting on 14 March, 1977. Mr. Jessen seconded the motion: all Commissioners present and voting concurred.

EXECUTIVE	COMMISSIONERS					
DIRECTOR	Benjamin B. Kirkland	Martin D. Jessen	Donald B. Jones	David J. Bardin	Joseph H. Burns	James C. Sayen
James C. Amon	Chairman	Vice-Chairman	Treasurer	Bruce A. Hamilton	Arthur J. Holland	Frank J. Torpey
NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION						
Brendan Byrne, Governor			David J. Bardin, Commissioner			

Approval of Quarterly Financial Report

Mr. Jones, Treasurer of the Commission, presented the Quarterly Financial Report and stated his approval of it. Mr. Jessen motioned for Commission approval of the report and Mr. Hamilton seconded the motion with no dissenting votes.

The question arose concerning the possibility of a "carry forward" from this year's budget into next fiscal year's budget. Ms. Wilson suggested that the Executive Director obtain in writing from Sidney Ytkin, Director of Administrative Affairs, the procedure for budget "carry forwards" (ie. the amounts and the categories of monies allowed to be carried forward from one year to the next.)

Leases and Permits

Mr. Jessen motioned for approval of all six leases explained in Mr. Amon's memo to the Commissioners dated 5 April, 1977. Mr. Jones seconded the motion with no dissenting votes.

Mr. Amon stated that there were two additional leases just recently brought to his attention that need Commission approval. The first is the permit/lease issued by the Bureau of Parks to the Boy Scout Troop #65 of Ringoes, N.J. The lease permits clean up work around the Lambertville Lock area and the building of a path along the canal and Route 29 for a short distance. Mr. Hamilton motioned for approval of the Boy Scout Permit; Mr. Jessen seconded the motion with no dissenting votes.

The second lease needing Commission recognition and verbal approval is a lease for the use of land bordering the Millstone River and the canal as a pasture area for horses. This lease would be a year to year lease and would be priced at the standardized rental price of \$5.00 per acre per year as determined by the Bureau of Parks. Before the Bureau of Parks proceeds to draw up such a lease, verbal informal approval from the Commission was desired. Mr. Amon pointed out that at several of the master plan public hearings, the use of land bordering the canal as pasture land was suggested and highly recommended by citizens of neighboring municipalities. Mr. Amon also stated that the Commission approves leases according to their use, not their fee. Mr. Jessen made a motion recommending that the Commission enter into such a lease agreement. The motion was seconded by Mr. Jones with no dissenting votes. Ms. Wilson suggested that the public be made more aware of the opportunity to rent available State-owned land. This would be a project for the DEP to work on.

Appointments of Commissioners

Chairman Kirkland stated that the appointments of Commissioners Jessen and Holland were soon to expire, and that there seemed to be a delay in the Governor 's Office for their re-appointments. Apparently, the delay stems from political considerations rather than from an assessment of the members' contributions. Ms. Wilson stated that several months ago, Commissioner Bardin had recommended to the Governor that both Commissioners be re-appointed. Ms. Wilson suggested that the Commission write the Governor a letter which would stress the enthusiasm and contributions that both Commissioners have displayed during their past appointed terms, and which would underplay the importance of potical considerations in decisions of re-appointment. Chairman Kirkland stated that he would write such a letter of recommendation to the Governor.

Adoption of the Master Plan

Mr. Amon stated that Mr. Sayen had asked him over the phone to state in his absence that he had reviewed the master plan and the revisions, and that he favored adoption of the proposed master plan at this meeting.

Mr. Amon explained the status of the hunting issue to the Commissioners. At a meeting held the morning of 11 April 1977, between the Division of Parks and Forestry, Division of Fish, Game, and Shellfisheries, The Canal Commission, and a representative from the N.J. Sportsmen's Federation, it was decided that Fish and Game would make a proposal for hunting in the Canal Park to the Division of Parks and Forestry. The Commissioners decided to hold their comment until the proposal was completed and presented to them.

Mr. Amon brought up for discussion the Commissioners' comments on the revisions of the proposed master plan. Chairman Kirkland and Mr. Jones both brought to the Commission's attention the questionable accuracy of the phrase concerning the Bel-Del Railroad line on Page 21 of the revisions. The phrase reads that the Bel-Del line "...is in the process of being...transferred to State ownership." This is not yet true. Mr. Jones suggested that the wording be changed to represent the present-day status of this land. Mr. Jones also motioned that the Commission urge the DEP to take affirmative action to acquire this parcel of land begin abandoned by Conrail which extends from Trenton to Milford. Mr. JEssen seconded the motion with no dissenting votes.

Additional comments on the master plan revisions centered upon typographical errors which the Commission's staff will correct.

Mr. Jessen motioned to adopt the master plan. However, Ms. Wilson suggested that the Commission postpone adopting the proposed master plan until the May meeting because representatives from DEP had received the revisions in the mail late the previous week and had not had ample time to review the revisions. Mayor Holland moved to table the motion to adopt the proposed master plan until next month's meeting; Ms. Wilson seconded the motion. Then, due to the fact that there may not be a 2/3 majority vote at next month's meeting (which would be needed to untable the motion), Mayor Holland motioned to untable his previous motion; again, Ms. Wilson seconded this motion with no dissenting votes.

Mr. Jessen brought up for discussion the issue of the survey work to determine the exact boundaries of State-owned land adjacent to the Canal Park. Ms. Wilson stated that due to the efforts of Mr. Amon and Mr. Kirkland, the DEP is about to or has already been committed to survey this land with an allocation of \$25,000. Mr. Jessen suggested the possibility of DOT doing some of the survey work. Ms. Wilson will investigate the possibility.

Format for Review Zone Meetings

The Commissioners agreed that they should be present at the review zone meeting held in their individual counties. Mr. Amon stated that the presence of each county's Commissioners would be most supportive at the meetings.

Mr. Jones questioned the limitation of the phrase "aesthetic and drainage impact" which is stated in the preface of PROTECTING THE CANAL PARK. He expressed concern that that phrase did not include consideration for historical, sound, or odor impact. It was agreed that the phrase should be revised to state exactly as it does in the statute the areas of possible impact.

Scudder Falls Property

Mayor Holland gave a brief report on the status of the Scudder Falls property. He stated that Trenton City Council had decided to visit the property individually but had not yet done so. Mayor Holland will keep the Commission informed of any new developments, however, he did state that, at the present time, the sentiment of the Council seems to be against the Mayor's recommendation of turning the properties over to the Canal Commission at fair market value.

Presentation of Princeton Township's Plans for their Basin Park

Mr. Philip Minis, Chairman of Princeton Township's Environmental Commission, presented plans for the Basin Park to the Commission. The presentation was informal as no formal action was required from the Commission at the time. The Commission applauded the plans as being an excellent example of municipal use of land bordering the Canal Park. Ms. Wilson suggested that after the Environmental Commission has talked with Green Acres about a development grant application, then would be the appropriate time for the Canal Commission to review the permit application.

Executive Director's Report

Mr. Amon stated that both he and Chairman Kirkland would be on vacation for the first two weeks in June. Consequently, they both would miss the June Commission meeting. Mayor Holland moved that the scheduled June meeting of 12 June 1977, be cancelled. Mr. Jessen seconded the motion with no dissenting votes. Chairman Kirkland announced that the appropriate written notice would be given by the Commission's staff in accordance with the Sunshine Law.

Mr. Amon suggested that once the master plan has been adopted, the Commission should select sites for priority planning. Broad plans need to be developed which would interest local municipalities with land bordering the Canal Park. Mr. Amon stated that he would prepared a site and projects list in order to begin discussions on priority site planning and development at next month's meeting. The development and expedience of site specific planning could lead to the hiring of an in-house landscape architect by the Commission. The 1978 fiscal year budget allows for the hiring and salary of a landscape architect although the details still need to be worked out. Mr. Kirkland suggested that Mr. Amon reiterate the future possibility of hiring a landscape architect in the May newsletter.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 3:15 p.m.