



MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE DELAWARE AND RARITAN
CANAL COMMISSION HELD ON THURSDAY, 21 APRIL, 1977

TIME: 9:30 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.
PLACE: Canal House, 25 Calhoun Street,
Trenton, N.J.
DATE: Thursday, 21 April, 1977

ATTENDING:

COMMISSION: Mr. Kirkland, Mr. Jones, Mr. Torpey,
Mr. Sayen, Mr. Jessen and Mr. Burns

STAFF: Mr. Amon and Mrs. Brown
DEP: Mr. Alfred Guido, Acting Director,
Division of Parks and Forestry
Mr. Eric Pearl, Assistant to Commissioner
Betty Wilson

ABSENT: Mr. Hamilton, Mayor Holland, Ms. Wilson

Chairman Kirkland brought the meeting to order and stated that the requirements of the 48 Hour Public Meeting Law had been properly met for the special meeting of the Delaware and Raritan Canal Commission meeting on 21 April, 1977. He announced that the nature of this meeting was to discuss with Senator Raymond Bateman his concerns over the D & R Canal State Park Proposed Master Plan. Chairman Kirkland read the following statement at the beginning of the meeting:

" The time, the date, the location, and the nature of this meeting were mailed to the Trenton Times, the Courier News, and the Home News on Monday, 18 April, 1977, and were mailed to the offices of the County Clerks of Mercer, Somerset, Middlesex, and Hunterdon Counties on Monday morning, 18 April, 1977."

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

Chairman Kirkland began the discussion by briefly presenting to the Senator the timetable of the Commission's existence dating from the Commission's conception in October 1974, to the hiring of the Executive Director in September 1975. He then introduced Mr. Amon who presented and explained the master plan and the Commission's progress towards the delineation of the review zone.

Mr. Amon explained the master plan in light of its two purposes - one being the basis for the review zone, and the other being a guide toward development of the Canal Park. Four major points were emphasized in the presentation. First was the Commission's concern with the potential of the different Canal Park areas and environments. The Commission realized at the start that it would be a serious mistake to assume that complete development of the park would happen at once: hence, their concern was with overall development of the park and not just with immediate development. Secondly, the Commission was dedicated to gaining municipal support in its process of developing the master plan. Consequently, a great deal of time was spent in involving community groups and incorporating community input in the master plan. As evidenced by the large number of local and regional organizations who applauded the master plan at the public hearings, the Commission was successful in its efforts. Third, Mr. Amon stressed the time that has been spent in coordinating studies and surveys of the Canal Park and its adjacent lands in order to develop a data base of information with which the Commission can work. Up until this time, there has been no established data base. This is an extremely necessary tool to have in developing both the master plan and the review zone. The fourth point stressed was the fact that the master plan is the basic framework for development of the Canal Park, and that the next step for the Commission is the articulation of this development. The Commission hopes to adopt the proposed master plan at its May meeting, and will begin its site specific planning immediately afterward.

Mr. Amon then explained to Senator Bateman the present status of the work on the review zone. He stated that all studies related to the data base for the review zone have been contracted and are scheduled for completion by Summer, 1977. He also stated that meetings with county and municipal planners on the subject of review zone procedures have been scheduled for late May 1977, and that the Commission plans to hold its public meetings on the review zone in early Fall, 1977.

Mr. Alfred Guido, Acting Director, Division of Parks and Forestry, mentioned three points which concern the Department of Environmental Protection and its working relationship with the Canal Park. Mr. Guido first stated that over the past two years, the Canal Park has administratively acquired parklands which have increased its land acreage from approximately 1,000 acres to 2,500 acres.

The second point concerned the very recent budget appropriations for additional park rangers. The hiring of additional rangers will be extremely beneficial to the overall maintenance and care of the Canal Park. The last point mentioned was the allocation of \$25,000 for the survey to determine exact Canal Park boundaries has been appropriated and work will begin directly.

At the end of the presentation and discussion, Chairman Kirkland asked Senator Bateman if he had any further questions or points of guidance for the Commission. Senator Bateman replied that his primary concern had been with the progress of the review zone, and that the Commission was further along with the review zone work than he had previously realized. Mr. Torpey suggested that Senator Bateman's name be placed on the Commission's mailing list so that there would be an open communication between the Senator and the Commission in the future.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 10:45 a.m.