



MINUTES OF MEETING 20 MARCH 1979

TIME: 12:00 noon - 2:45 p.m.
PLACE: The Canal House, 25 Calhoun Street
Trenton, New Jersey
DATE: Tuesday, 20 March 1979

ATTENDING:
COMMISSIONERS: Mr. Kirkland, Mr. Sayen, Mr. Jones,
Mr. Burns, Mr. Sinclair
STAFF: Mr. Amon, Mrs. Max
DAG: Mr. Gray
DEP: Mr. Chase, Bureau of Water Facilities
Operations
GUESTS: Mrs. Dorothy Bayless, Lawrence Township
Mrs. Ruth Linker, Mercer #208
Mr. John Hazen, Lambertville

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Chairman Kirkland called the meeting to order and stated that the requirements of the Open Public Meeting Law had been properly met for the meeting of 20 March 1979.

It was moved by Mr. Jones and seconded by Mr. Sayen to approve the minutes of the 20 February meeting. The motion was carried without dissent.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Signs in the Canal Park

Mr. Amon announced that the Department of Parks has erected identification signs at canal crossings.

Mr. Sinclair added that the main section of the canal is complete, but that the feeder canal remains to be done. The Division of Parks was not able to finish the feeder canal because some of the signs were not constructed satisfactorily. Mr. Sinclair also mentioned that during the short time the signs have been in existence, a few have been vandalized in the Griggstown area.

EXECUTIVE	COMMISSIONERS					
DIRECTOR	Benjamin B. Kirkland	Martin D. Jessen	Donald B. Jones	Daniel J. O'Hern	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 Daniel J. O'Hern, Commissioner

Mr. Amon said he was so pleased with these signs he now would like to have signs identifying all locks and canal houses. Since there are surplus funds in the Commission budget, he asked Mr. Gray if it would be possible to use these monies for such a project.

Mr. Gray advised the Commission to request that the Department of Parks take care of these additional signs. The Commission would avoid having to obtain bids to construct the signs and also would not be faced with the problem of placing them on site.

Mr. Sinclair recommended that Mr. Amon outline the excess Commission funds, draw up guidelines for the signs, keep the project "in-house" and transfer the appropriate funds to the Bureau of Parks to cover cost.

B. Canoe Docks

A Ewing Township Explorer Scout Troop has volunteered to install one canoe dock in the Scudder's Falls area. Ranger Herald agreed to have the materials delivered to the site and to supervise construction. The troop would like to begin the project by April 12th and has agreed to follow the design approved by the Commission and the Bureau of Parks.

Mr. Sayen said that if this project works out, perhaps the Commissioners could find other Explorer Groups to accomplish similar work in some of the 22 locations designated by Parks for canoe docks. Mr. Sayen added he would like to see more canoe docks established by summer.

HISTORIC SURVEY PROJECT

Mr. Amon stated that yet another solution to the Historic Survey employee problem has been suggested by Mr. Gibson. Instead of one full-time employee and two full-time summer interns, Mr. Gibson and his associate Steven Bauer will both work full-time for a period of 15 months. Both are registered architects and both have masters degrees in historic preservation. Mr. Gibson and Mr. Bauer would receive the salaries proposed for one full-time employee and two interns. Mr. Amon discussed this possibility with Judith Blood and she had no objections to the proposal.

Mr. Sinclair thought this a fine idea and moved to authorize the hiring of Mr. Gibson and Mr. Bauer on the above-mentioned terms, the hiring to be subject to the approval by a sub-committee who will interview Mr. Bauer. The motion was seconded by Mr. Sayen and carried unanimously.

Mr. Sayen, Mr. Jones, Mr. Kirkland, and Mr. Amon will serve on the committee to interview Mr. Bauer.

Mr. Amon said that time is needed to obtain approval for the two positions, so the two architects could not be expected to begin the survey until sometime between May 1 and June 1, 1979.

CANAL PARK IMPROVEMENT

Mr. Sinclair reported that Commissioner O'Hern attended the Capital Planning Meeting and although he did not speak about the D & R Canal Park, he did submit written material. Commissioner O'Hern requested a total amount of \$150,000 for the 1980 fiscal year: \$25,000 for design and \$125,000 for construction.

SOUTH BOUND BROOK SWING BRIDGE

Mr. Amon said that recently, the D.O.T. was called upon to remove and replace the deck of the bridge in South Bound Brook. D.O.T. repairmen found that beneath the deck, the turning gears and motor of the old swing bridge were still intact. B.W.F.O. was contacted by the D.O.T. and asked if the mechanism should be removed and placed in a museum. Staff members from B.W.F.O. and Mr. Amon went to see the bridge and discussed with D.O.T. the possibility of preserving the bridge on site. D.O.T. said that necessary additions could be made to the contract which exists to repair the bridge. For an additional \$2000.00 the D.O.T. could provide for sandblasting and painting the mechanism and installation of railroad-tie steps which would enable the public to descend to see the swing mechanism. The lay-out of the steps would be approved by the Canal Commission and the Design Department of the Bureau of Parks.

Mr. Sinclair stated that the project had been brought to the attention of Commissioner O'Hern and that the Commissioner had given his approval.

CANAL REPAIR WORK

Mr. Chase reported on the status of the two wash-outs which occurred on February 23rd and 24th and added that there had been a near wash-out on March 6th.

Hess Brothers are under contract to do the emergency repairs which include pouring a concrete wall under Rt.287. They are also installing a seepage dam to keep water from going through the embankment.

The towpath under Rt.287 will be approximately 1 foot higher than elsewhere and then will taper to the normal elevation.

Hess Brothers will not do cosmetic clean-up; a separate contract will be issued for dirt-spill and cleaning the towpath.

The Commissioners briefly discussed the possibility of having the Commission sign-off (in addition to B.W.F.O. and Parks) on all canal repair contracts. It was agreed that the best course would be not to have this additional sign-off as a legal requirement, but to have Parks and B.W.F.O. notify Mr. Amon before sign-off is complete. This would give Mr. Amon the opportunity to view the area in question and express his satisfaction or recommend extra work.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A. Refinishing of Canal House Floors

Mr. Amon stated that the floors in the Calhoun Street Canal House are one of the lovely features of the house; they are not laid in the common linear manner, but are constructed in unusual patterns. In many places, the finish of the floors is down to the bare wood. In order to better preserve these floors, Mr. Amon suggested that they be sanded and refinished with a hard coat of polyurethane.

Mr. Sinclair recommended that some of the Commission's 1979 surplus funds be used for this purpose. The Bureau of Parks should be asked to do the work and in this case, a transfer of funds could be accomplished. If the Bureau is not interested, then the Commission could solicit bids from state vendors.

It was moved by Mr. Sayen and seconded by Mr. Sinclair to have the floors refinished, preferably by the Bureau of Parks, or in the event that the Bureau refuses, by outside vendors. The motion was carried unanimously.

If an outside vendor is used, Mr. Sayen highly recommends Mr. Kominsky of Trenton.

B. Administrative Assistant

Mr. Amon announced that Mrs. Max had resigned her position as Administrative Assistant and would be leaving on March 30th.

He had asked Mr. Russell, Chief of Personnel, how to obtain a replacement under the Civil Service rules for unclassified employees. Mr. Russell informed him that the candidate's name must be submitted to the Treasury Department and if the salary is above \$10,000, the position must be brought to the attention of the Governor for ultimate approval.

Mr. Gray stated that since state monies are involved, the Commission must follow the provisions stipulated for hiring unclassified employees.

Mr. Amon said he would like to keep the salary below \$10,000 in order to rapidly process the candidate.

It was moved by Mr. Jones and seconded by Mr. Burns to authorize Mr. Amon to advertise the position at \$9,999 and submit the name to Treasury. The motion was carried unanimously.

It was moved by Mr. Sinclair and seconded by Mr. Jones to acknowledge the good service of Mrs. Max during the two years she worked for the Commission. The motion was carried unanimously.

PUBLIC FORUM

Mrs. Bayless reported that Lawrence Township has acquired an additional 6 acres in the Port Mercer area. It is the intent of the Town Council and the Board of Education to reconstruct an historic farm for the benefit of the Lawrence school children. The Brearley House, which is on site and which dates from 1761, will be used as a sample farm house. The Brearley House is in excellent condition and will not need much repair before it is opened to the public.

The meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.