MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 15 NOVEMBER 1983

TIME: 12:00 noon to 2:30 p.m.
PLACE: Canal House, 25 Calhoun Street, Trenton
DATE: Tuesday, 15 November 1983

ATTENDING:

COMMISSIONERS: Messrs. Kirkland, Jones, Zaikov, Hamilton, Sayen, Jessen and Holland

STAFF: Messrs. Amon, Carr, and Mrs. Greenwald

GUESTS: Mr. Larry Pitt, Canal Society
Messrs. Guidotti and Stern, State Park Service
Mr. Samuel Hamill, MSM Regional Study Council

Mr. Kirkland opened the meeting and stated that all applicable provisions of the Open Public Meeting Law of 1976 had been properly met.

The minutes of the meeting of 11 October 1983 were unanimously approved following a motion made by Mr. Jones and seconded by Mr. Sayen.

LEASE

Following a motion made by Mr. Jones and seconded by Mr. Hamilton the following lease was unanimously approved:

Lester Terhune Land $100.00 per year

REVIEW ZONE ACTIONS

Mr. Amon and Mr. Carr recommended the following review zone projects to the Commission for their approval:
Following a motion made by Mr. Hamilton and seconded by Mr. Zaikov the above projects passed unanimously with the exception of two nay votes, one by Mr. Jessen on the New Jersey National Bank project and the second by Mr. Sayen on the Nassau Park project.

REVIEW ZONE ACTIONS TO BE WAIVED

Following a motion made by Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mr. Holland the Commission waived review of the Alert Gas Station project, located in Ewing Township, Mercer County.

DISCUSSION OF CANAL PARK IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

1. PEDESTRIAN BRIDGES

An amendment to the designer's contract was necessary after the Commission rejected the original design, but that should be completed within a week. The additional design cost will be $7,900. DBC is expecting to request construction bids in February. That would mean that by the end of March a contract should be awarded and construction could begin shortly thereafter.

2. RECREATIONAL NODES

The contract for design of recreational access nodes at Belle Mountain, the Millstone Acqueduct, and South Bound Brook with Goodkind and O'Dea was terminated because they were unable to produce satisfactory designs. Parks must therefore rewrite the scope of work for the design and submit it to DBC to be reissued for bids. This means that this project must start at the beginning again. Mr. Jessen said that he is concerned that the architectural style be Victorian in order to make it compatible with the history of the canal. Mr. Amon and Mr. Guidotti pointed out that the DESIGN GUIDE is referenced in the specifications and it requires architectural compatibility with the historic structures of the canal.

Mr. Kirkland suggested that Mr. Amon should have a seat on the board that chooses the designers for Canal Park projects.
3. WESTON CANAL HOUSE

Mr. Guidotti reported that this project goes way back (In June, 1981, the Commission transferred $10,000 for work on the Weston house.) but whatever paperwork that had been done on this project has been lost. Parks must begin again, but they do still have the money.

4. CANAL PARK DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Mr. Guidotti said that a final draft of the Canal Park Development Plan has been received by his office. It is being reviewed by his staff and will be discussed with Director Myers and Mr. Amon shortly. Mr. Amon said that he believed that CUH2A feels that they need more money to complete this project. Mr. Guidotti, on the other hand, said that neither Parks nor DBC knows anything of this need for additional money. Messrs. Guidotti, Myers and Amon are to meet and review the submitted material to determine its suitability. Mr. Kirkland requested that he also be present.

Mr. Hamill of the MSM Regional Study Council addressed the Commissioners concerning the Development Plan. He read a letter that he has sent to Commissioner Robert E. Hughey on this subject. This letter states that more money is needed to complete the project and urges Commissioner Hughey to commit the Department to completing this important document. He specifically recommends its completion in time for public presentation at the time of the June, 1984, sesquicentennial celebration.

The Commission discussed Mr. Hamill's letter and agreed that the need for the Development Plan is urgent but concluded that it should take no action until after Messrs. Guidotti, Myers, Kirkland, and Amon have met.

Mr. Kirkland thanked Mr. Hamill for speaking to the Commission.

SEQUECICENTENNIAL

Mr. Amon brought the Commissioners up to date on the planning activities of the sesquicentennial celebration.

CANAL PARK SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

See attached.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.
Over the last month the following projects have been accomplished:

1. Cleared one 8 acre field near East Millstone opening access to the river in this area.

2. Began fall clean-up of the tow path.

3. Dismantled and stored equipment from the day use areas.

4. Winterized structures and systems at Bulls Island, Lambertville and Belle Mead.

5. Installed a new fence at the Griggstown mule drivers barracks.

6. Planted perennial bulbs at Bulls Island.

7. Continued with renovations at the Bulls Island office.

8. Maintained trash pick-up and grass mowing operations. This should be the last cycle for the grass this year.

9. Fertilized and seeded in the bare spots at Blackwells Mills and Griggstown day use areas.

10. The Somerset Horse and Pony Association donated time to trail maintenance.

11. Have been in contact with the Skillmen Home for Boys trying to replace the corrections crew which was lost due to the transfer of the Cottage Three program to Sandy Hook.

In the month to come we will be involved in the following:

1. Begin hosting a competitive ride on 20 November 1983.

2. Begin spreading fill on the tow path to fill ruts and depressions.

3. Continue to clear fields along River Road.

4. Spread lime on Blackwells Mills and Griggstown day use areas.

5. Continue with renovations to Bulls Island office.

6. Continue with trash pick up along tow path.

7. Clear selected boundary areas.


Report submitted by Paul Stern, Superintendent
D & R Canal State Park