



DELAWARE AND RARITAN  
CANAL COMMISSION

21 March 1984

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 13 MARCH 1984:

TIME: 12:30 pm to 3:15 pm  
PLACE: Canal House, 25 Calhoun Street, Trenton  
DATE: Tuesday, 13 March 1984

ATTENDING:

COMMISSIONERS: Messrs. Jessen, Jones, Zaikov, Holland,  
Torpey, Kirkland and Mrs. Nash

STAFF: Messrs. Amon, Carr and Mrs. Greenwald

GUESTS: Messrs. McKelvey and Pitt, Canal Society  
Messrs. Guidotti, Stern and Kraml,  
State Park Service  
Messrs. Myers and Houseman, N.J.W.S.A.  
Mrs. Blair, D & R Canal Coalition  
Mr. Labig, Trentonian Reporter

\* \* \* \* \*

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

MINUTES

The following changes should be made to the minutes of 14 February 1984: Page 3, Discussion of Proposed West Amwell Quarry - Mr. Jessen Abstained, not voted against the resolution. Canal Park Supervisor's Report, Item #4 should be changed to "repaired", not "repainted". Following the above changes Mr. Jessen moved for approval; the motion was seconded by Mr. Zaikov and unanimously approved.

CN 402 TRENTON, NEW JERSEY 08625 609-292-2101

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**  
James C. Amon

**COMMISSIONERS**  
Benjamin B. Kirkland  
*Chairman*

Martin D. Jessen  
*Vice-Chairman*

Donald B. Jones  
*Treasurer*

Robert E. Hughey  
Bruce A. Hamilton

Stuart R. Zaikov  
Arthur J. Holland

Winona D. Nash  
Frank J. Torpey

**NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**  
Thomas H. Kean, *Governor* Robert E. Hughey, *Commissioner*

REVIEW ZONE ACTIONS:

Mr. Amon and Mr. Carr presented the following projects to the Commissioners for their approval:

82-0154-A	J.L. Williams and Company, Inc.
83-0176	South Brunswick Industrial Park
83-0225	The Manors at Lawrenceville
83-0258	Riverview II
83-0284	Sutman Executive Center
83-0295	Lakeside Manor
84-0321	Signal-Stat Consolidation
84-0333	McAnter Associates
84-0349	Anton Lemli

Mr. Zaikov moved for approval of the above projects. The motion was seconded by Mr. Holland and unanimously approved with the exception of Mr. Jessen who abstained from 82-0154-A.

Mr. Amon told the Commissioners that there are two projects proposed by the City of New Brunswick that would have a disastrous effect on that portion of the canal that is in the City, beyond the limits of the review zone. The first is a river front park that would have a fountain in the middle of the canal near the outlet lock. Most of the rest of the canal in New Brunswick would be filled in, according to this plan. While Mr. Amon felt that there is little likelihood that this park would be built, another project poses an imminent threat. Part of the canal would be filled for a heliport near the police station in New Brunswick.

The Commissioners felt that they should be careful because they do not have jurisdiction but they requested that Mr. Amon contact Mayor Lynch to register opposition to both ideas. Mr. Torpey said that he would help Mr. Amon on this matter.

TRANSFER OF CANAL OWNERSHIP

Mel Myers and Roy Houseman presented plans to the commission to acquire from the Department of Environmental Protection ownership of the canal and some of the land along its banks. Mr. Myers presented the following reasons for this transfer:

1. Financing - ownership of the canal would allow the Authority to sell improvement bonds.
2. Insurance - the Authority must insure the canal and ownership would make this easier.
3. Ownership would make it easier for the Authority to make emergency repairs.

The deed would have to signed over to them and also a memorandum of understanding (management agreement) would be put in the document. Mr. Guidotti was questioned on his feelings about the transfer and he stated that it was the first time he had seen the paperwork and that he would like an opportunity to review it before commenting. Mr. Amon reported that DAG Gray had informed him that this deed transfer would in no way alter the Canal Commission's reviewing authority. There were many questions by the Commissioners about the need for the transfer.

Following lengthy discussion Mr. Zaikov stated that he could not understand the reason for the transfer so he moved to table this until the next meeting. Mr. Zaikov's motion was seconded by Mr. Jessen. The secretary was then asked to call roll: Mr. Zaikov - yes, Mr. Holland - yes, Mrs. Nash - yes Mr. Jones - no, Mr. Torpey - no, Mr. Jessen - yes, and Mr. Kirkland abstained.

Mr. Torpey then made the following motion: The Commission requests that Director Ricci come to the next Commission meeting to explain the reasons for the transfer and answer questions. The Commission further advised the Water Authority if the State House Committee meeting is scheduled before the Canal Commission's next meeting a special meeting of the Canal Commission will be held to vote on the project. Mr. Torpey's motion carried unanimously following Mr. Holland's second.

#### DISCUSSION OF OFFICE LOCATION

Mr. Kirkland explained that at previous meetings this issue had been discussed but no action was taken because Mayor Holland had not been present. Mr. Amon summarized the ideas by saying that consideration has been given to locating the Commission's office at the Prallsville Mill in Stockton. He said that the principle reason for the move would be to locate the office amidst a vital part of the Canal Park. The Calhoun Street location is scarcely perceived as being part of a park and the lack of a towpath, the fence, and the frequency of low bridges in Trenton makes use of the canal as a park extremely difficult.

Mr. Holland strongly objected to the move. He pointed out the importance of being in the State Capitol, the central location of Trenton, and the importance of public and private agencies support for the city.

Mrs. Nash left at 2:00 pm.

This discussion was extended until Mr. Jones moved to table the issue until a future meeting. The motion carried unanimously following Mr. Zaikov's second.

### DISCUSSION OF PUBLICATION OF DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Mr. Amon said that he met with the planner who has prepared the Development Plan and got the following estimate for publication of 500 copies of a condensed version of the plan:

For a booklet with 30 pages of text, 8-10 maps, and drawings and photographs plus several presentation boards for use at meetings, the firm has proposed an upset price of about \$25,000.

It was generally agreed that this seemed an excessive fee. Mr. Torpey moved that no action should be taken until the plan is complete. Mr. Zaikov seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

### BUDGET FOR SESQUICENTENNIAL

Mr. Amon distributed copies of a tentative budget for the \$15,000 allocated to the Commission for sesquicentennial planning. He pointed out that many issues still did not have specific costs yet but the budget reflected anticipated costs for items discussed and agreed upon at earlier meetings. The budget total is for \$13,090.

Mr. Jessen suggested that Mr. Amon look into the cost of commemorative plates, glasses, or ceramic canal boats.

The budget, which also indicated that over \$100,000 will be spent on the sesquicentennial by other organizations, was generally agreed upon.

Mr. Torpey moved and Mr. Jones seconded a motion that participating organizations would generally have to provide their own publicity - - granting Mr. Amon discretion to select exceptions. The motion passed unanimously.

### FRIENDS OF THE CANAL CERTIFICATES

Mr. Zaikov moved and Mr. Jessen seconded a motion to approve Mr. Kirkland's signing Friend of the D & R Canal certificates prepared by Mr. Amon. The motion passed unanimously.

### CANAL ROAD

Mr. Amon said that a group of Griggstown residents has agreed to work with him on examining threats to the rural character of Canal Road and to explore solutions. Their work will be voluntary and have the weight of a citizen recommendation.

INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY AND GREENWAY PROJECT

Mrs. Blair told the Commission that the Princeton Friends for Open Space has succeeded in getting the Institute for Advanced Study to drop plans for developing their land near the canal. This group has now joined with several other environmental groups in an endeavor named Project Greenway. This new effort will be directed at preserving stream corridors along those streams that come into the Canal Park, principally those in the Trenton to New Brunswick area. Mr. Holland moved recognition of the accomplishment and support for the new goal. In seconding this motion, Mr. Jones asked to amend it by extending the area covered to include the feeder canal. Mr. Holland accepted the amendment, and the motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 pm.

REPORT TO THE CANAL COMMISSION  
13 January 1984 - 14 February 1984

Report #12  
6 March 1984

Over the last month the following projects have been accomplished:

1. Finished renovations of the Bull's Island office. Including painting interior, replacing flooring, panelling, and installing new lights.
2. Painted interior of the Belle Mead office.
3. Continued to prune trees and remove brush between Griggstown and Rocky Hill using the corrections crew from Skillman.
4. Repainted the catwalk over the Kingston Aqueduct.
5. Cleared snow and ice from roadwalks and bridges in Trenton.
6. The Somerset County Horse & Pony Association donated time to the maintenance of trails within the park.
7. A new Chief Ranger started on the 6th of February, John Auciello. John has moved into the west half of the Muledrivers Barracks.

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

1. Begin to pour replacement mile markers.
2. Continue to prune and remove brush between Rocky Hill and Griggstown.
3. Installing new lighting fixtures at the Belle Mead office.
4. Refinishing the floors at the Belle Mead office.
5. Weather permitting we will start to brush back the railroad right-of-way from Bull's Island to Milford and mow the large field off of River Road near Griggstown.

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

REPORT TO THE CANAL COMMISSION  
15 February 1984 - 13 March 1984

Report #13  
21 March 1984

Over the last month the following projects have been accomplished:

1. Refinished the floors at the Belle Mead office.
2. Installed new lighting fixtures at the Belle Mead office.
3. Began brushing back the railroad right-of-way from Bull's Island to Milford.
4. Installed iron removal system in the wash house at Bull's Island.
5. Continued with brushing back operation between Griggstown and Rocky Hill.
6. Personnel from Skillman have been busy treating our fences, markers and picnic tables with wood preservatives and repairing picnic tables at Bull's Island.

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

1. Continue brushing back railroad right-of-way.
2. Construct new garage doors for the Bull's Island office.
3. Continue work on replacement mile markers.
4. If weather permits continue brushing back between Rocky Hill and Griggstown and begin clearing a large field off of River Road near Griggstown.

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