



DELAWARE AND RARITAN  
CANAL COMMISSION

3 September 1985

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 20 AUGUST 1985:

TIME: 12:00 - 2:05 p.m.  
DATE: Tuesday, 20 August 1985  
PLACE: Ellarslie Museum, Cadwalader Park, Trenton, N.J.

ATTENDING:

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

STAFF: Mr. Baill and Mrs. Greenwald  
Mr. George P. Cook, DAG

GUESTS: Mr. Larry Pitt, Canal Society of New Jersey  
Mr. Wm. McKelvey, Canal Society of New Jersey  
Mrs. Ursula Buchanan, D & R Canal Coalition  
Mr. Paul Stern, D & R Canal State Park  
Mr. Richard Famularo, N.J.W.S.A.  
Mr. A. Gregory Chase, N.J.W.S.A.  
Mr. Richard H. Wilson, Dept. of Human Services  
Mr. Maxim Levitan, Div. of Building & Construction  
Mr. Geoffrey Dickinson, Div. of Building & Construction  
Mr. Joseph Chojnowski, Div. of Building & Construction  
Mr. Bruce Michelsen, PRC Engineering  
Mr. Edward S. Rutsch, H.C.I.  
Mr. Brian Morrell, H.C.I.

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

Mr. Zaikov requested that the September meeting date be changed since the scheduled meeting falls on a Jewish holiday. It was decided that the meeting will be held on 10 September 1985 at the Port Mercer Canal House.

MINUTES

Mr. Jessen moved and Mrs. Nash seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the meeting of 16 July 1985. The motion carried unanimously.

PRALLSVILLE MILLS P.O. BOX 539 STOCKTON, NJ 08559-0539 609-397-2000

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR James C. Amon  
COMMISSIONERS  
Benjamin B. Kirkland Chairman  
Martin D. Jessen Vice-Chairman  
Donald B. Jones Treasurer  
Robert E. Hughey  
Stuart R. Zaikov  
Winona D. Nash  
Bruce A. Hamilton  
Arthur J. Holland  
Frank J. Torpey

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

LEASES AND PERMITS

Mr. Baill presented the following leases to the Commissioners for their approval:

Bernard	House	\$1,500.00 per year
Fairweather House	House	\$250.00 per month

Mr. Baill explained Mr. Amon's desire to have a condition put on the Fairweather lease that the land with the house would be 150 feet from the northeast corner around the home and adjust the lease to have the Canal Commission and the Office of New Jersey Heritage approve any plans for it.

Discussion ensued on the rental fee, the 25 year length of the lease, and on guarantees that repairs will be made. Mr. Jessen stated that the Commission had no control over those aspects of the lease; it is to approve or disapprove the proposed use of the property.

Discussion then focused on the size of the lot. Some Commissioners argued that it may be wise to let the land stay as it is with the condition that the tenant would be responsible for its upkeep.

Mr. Jessen moved that the Canal Commission accept the lease with the provision that the Canal Commission be given review of changes that deviate from the submitted plans and that the land greater than 150 feet in each direction from the corner be submitted for negotiation. However the Canal Commission approves either one. Mr. Jones seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Mr. Jessen then moved approval of the Bernard lease. The motion carried unanimously following Mr. Zaikov's second.

Mr. Baill told the Commissioners of a request from Mr. Frank of Albernathy Drive in Trenton to construct an above ground pool on property owned by the State. Following discussion about the appearance of the pool and its location Mr. Jessen moved that this proposal be entertained in a favorable manner (subject to an appropriate lease being drawn up). Mr. Jones seconded the motion. The motion passed with favorable votes from all Commissioners except Mrs. Nash who voted no, and Mr. Marshall who abstained.

REVIEW ZONE PROJECTS

Mr. Baill presented the following review zone projects to the Commissioners for the approval:

84-0515	Harvest Farms
85-0688	Weston Canal Center
85-0689	Simon Development
85-0714	Clark G. Travers
85-0731	Sheppard, Masser and Others
85-0783	Mercer Medical Center
85-0751	Vantage Companies, Inc.

Mr. Jessen moved approval of all of the above projects with the exception of Vantage Companies and also with the condition placed on the Mercer Medical Center that the approval is subject to Mr. Amon reviewing the plans. Mr. Amon is to make sure that the landscape work for the prior Mercer Medical Center project has been completed. Mr. Torpey seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Mr. Torpey then moved approval of the Vantage Companies project. Upon Mr. Jones' second the motion carried unanimously with the exception of Mr. Jessen who abstained.

Mr. Baill reported that the Trenton Psychiatric Hospital has requested a waiver from the review zone regulations because they perceive a detention basin to be a safety threat to their patients. Mr. Richard Wilson, who represented the hospital explained their request but neither Mr. Baill nor the Commission agreed with his plea. Mr. Marshall recommended that Mr. Baill and the appropriate hospital representatives find an appropriate solution.

#### DREDGING OF THE WICKECHEOKE CREEK

Mr. Jones requested Commission approval to have the Wickecheoke Creek dredged. He informed them that Mr. Busic, owner of the Delaware Quarry would be interested in doing this job free. Mr. Jones stated that if the creek were dredged just before it joins the canal there would be less silt and stones in the canal.

Mr. Jessen moved approval of the proposed dredging by the Delaware River Mill Society. Mr. Torpey seconded the motion. Mrs. Nash questioned who would be responsible for overseeing the project.

Mr. Chase said that the Water Supply Authority would like to review the plan along with the Parks Department, he said many details of the plan would have to be considered.

The motion carried unanimously.

#### TREE REMOVAL PROPOSAL

Mr. Baill told the Commissioners that a proposal has been received for the restoration of Contract I (the area between Titusville and Port Mercer). The contractor has removed 1,030 trees in the course of his work which he is obliged to replace. A plan has been made, however, to replace 293 trees and to convert 19,800 linear feet of abandoned railroad right-of-way (on the canal's bank) into a multi-use trail. The trail would be 10 feet wide and would be constructed by placing a layer of stone dust  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches thick over graded railroad ballast. The areas to be converted to trail are between Whitehead Road and Carnegie Roads in Lawrence Township and between Scudder's Falls and Lower Ferry Road in Ewing Township. Representatives of the Commission, Parks, and Water Supply Authority would jointly select the location for the 293 trees to be planted.

Mr. Bruce Michelsen, the Resident Engineer, told the Commissioners that the cost of this proposal is equivalent to the cost of planting 1,030 trees.

Mrs. Nash asked about restoration plans for the section between Whitehead Road and Mulberry Street. She said that this area was badly neglected yet served a large urban population. She was told that this area would be restored to its pre-construction condition. She also asked about a retention basin near Cherry Tree Lane which she said was destroyed during construction and was important. No one present was aware of this basin but Mr. Michelsen said that he would review the video tapes and if it was destroyed it would be restored.

Mr. Baill said that his experience of bicycling on a rehabilitated railroad right-of-way has convinced him that it should be paved. This idea was discussed without resolution.

Mr. Paul Stern asked Mr. Michelsen about the restoration of the multi-use path in the Titusville area. Mr. Michelsen said that this path was constructed after the contractor submitted his bid so he is not responsible for restoring the path. The Division of Building and Construction is investigating this problem. Mr. Stern suggested that the Commission may want to restore the Titusville path instead of the other areas.

Mr. Jessen moved approval of the proposed path and tree proposal as long as the exact location of the path construction be undetermined at this time. It was proposed that Mr. Amon, Mr. Stern, and Mr. Jones determine the location of path construction. The motion was passed unanimously.

The Commission entered a lengthy discussion on the subject of tree management along the canal, particularly focusing on the trees that have grown between the canal and the towpath.

Mrs. Blair of the D & R Canal Coalition had recently requested -- among other things -- a written policy regarding tree removal.

The Commissioners discussed the DEVELOPMENT PLAN which recommends a gradual thinning of all trees between the towpath and the canal, and encouragement of the growth of trees on the other side of the towpath to arch over the path and water's edge.

Mr. Edward Rutsch, whose firm has been supervising the preservation of the canal's cultural resources during the dredging project, said that trees between the towpath and the canal are a very real detriment to the canal. He said that the embankment stone walls are being destroyed by these trees.

Mrs. Buchanan spoke on behalf of the Coalition and said that the historic character of the canal is not important when compared to the value of trees. She said that the towpath is too hot even in little areas where there are no trees. She further urged the preservation of trees as a buffer between the park and the increasingly urbanized surroundings.

The Commission generally recognized the complexity of this issue and concluded that it would be helpful for Mr. Amon to work with Parks in preparing a generally worded policy regarding management of the trees and other vegetation between the canal and the towpath.

MEETING SCHEDULE

Mr. Zaikov moved and Mr. Marshall seconded a proposal to follow the following meeting schedule for the balance of 1985:

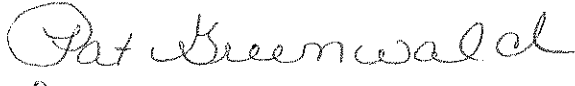
September 10, 1985	Port Mercer Canal House
October 15, 1985	Griggstown Muletender's Barracks
November 19, 1985	Meadows Foundation
December 17, 1985	Prallsville Mill Complex

The motion was passed unanimously.

2:05 the following people left the meeting: Mrs. Nash, Mr. Marshall, Mr. Zaikov, and Mr. Holland. There was no longer a quorum.

Mr. Rutsch reported on the findings of the archeologists during the dredging project.

Respectfully submitted,

  
for James C. Amon  
Executive Director

NEW JERSEY STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**MEMO**TO D & R Canal CommissionFROM Paul SternDATE August 23, 1985SUBJECT Report to the Canal Commission July 16, 1985 to August 20, 1985

Over the course of the last month we have:

- 1) Completed Zarephath roof repairs.
- 2) Reopened trails along canal between Route 1 and Whitehead Road.
- 3) Installed 20 gates along the railroad right-of-way between Stockton and Milford.
- 4) Maintained trash, grass mowing, and brushing back operations.
- 5) Completed research for bid proposals in conjunction with the following repairs:

Interior plaster repair - Mule Driver's Barracks

Plumbing renovation - Mule Driver's Barracks

Painting - 5 Mile Lock House, Zarephath Canal House, Mule Driver's Barracks interior.

In the month to come we will:

- 1) Begin brushing operations from Church Road in Titusville north.
- 2) Continue to install gates on right-of-way between Bulls Island and Milford.
- 3) Bid jobs previously mentioned in #5 above.
- 4) Begin turf renovations at Bulls Island campground and South Bound Brook Lock.
- 5) Begin fall field clearing at select locations along River Road.

Paul Stern

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