

**June 21, 2017 Minutes of the Meeting
Delaware and Raritan Canal Commission**

TIME: 10:15 am
DATE: June 21, 2017
PLACE: Prallsville Mills, Stockton, New Jersey

ATTENDING COMMISSIONERS:

Vice Chairman John Loos, Commissioner Julia Allen, Commissioner Mary Leck,
Commissioner Phil Lubitz, Commissioner Bruce Stout, Mr. Bob Bostock

STAFF: Executive Director Marlene Dooley, Mr. Joseph Ruggeri,
Deputy Attorney General Melissa Abatemarco, Ms. Colleen Christie Maloney,
Ms. Jasmine Davison

GUESTS: D & R Canal State Park Superintendent Patricia Kalleser; Mr. Rob Auermuller, D & R Canal State Park; Mr. Michael Sellar and Ms. Heather Desco, NJWSA; Mr. Robert von Zumbush, D & R Canal Commission Advisory Committee; Mr. Robert Barth, D & R Canal Watch; Cristen Solor, Weston Solutions

Vice Chairman Loos announced that this was a regularly scheduled meeting of the D & R Canal Commission and that all provisions of the Open Public Meetings Law of 1976 had been met in the scheduling of the meeting.

Administrative Items

The Commission confirmed the July 19, 2017 Commission meeting date.

Minutes

May 17, 2017 Meeting Minutes

Vice Chairman Loos called for a motion to approve the May meeting minutes. Commissioner Stout made a motion to approve the minutes and Commissioner Leck seconded the motion. Vice Chairman Loos asked for discussion and correction of the minutes. Hearing none, he called for a vote. Vice Chairman Loos, Commissioner Leck, and Commissioner Lubitz voted to approve the minutes. Mr. Bostock, and Commissioners Allen and Lubitz abstained. The motion was approved.

Review Zone Projects

Zone A Projects

Vice Chairmen Loos asked if the commission wished to discuss any Review Zone A Projects:

17-3683C New Jersey Statehouse Renovation (Trenton)
17-5029 45 Clinton Street Shed Rehabilitation (Lambertville)
17-2441R Princeton University Substation (W. Windsor)

There was discussion on the Princeton University Substation project, including the potential for bridges over the canal and utility pipes placed under the canal. Vice Chairmen Loos then asked for comment from the public. Hearing none, he asked for a motion on all the Zone A projects. Commissioner Lubitz motioned to approve the projects and Mr. Bostock seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Zone B Projects

Vice Chairman Loos asked if there was comment from the commission or the public on the Zone B projects:

17-3865A 79 Bedens Brook Road Pool (Montgomery)
16-3790A Colonial RV (Millstone Twp)
17-2823F Hun School Turf Field and Bleacher Upgrade (Princeton)
17-4808 Georges Rd Warehouse Additions (S. Brunswick)
17-2641A Pennington DPW Solar (Hopewell Twp)
17-5005 2 Princess Road (Lawrence)
17-2215L Hopewell Valley Central High School Additions
17-5012 Compass at Cranbury
17-5019 Cherry Valley Road (Princeton, Montgomery)

Regarding the Cherry Valley Road project, Commissioner Lubitz, Mr. Ruggeri, and Director Dooley discussed responsibility for maintaining the stormwater basin and agreements related to it.

Mr. Barth and Director Dooley discussed the Pennington DPW Solar project, which is owned by PSE&G.

Vice Chairman Loos asked for further questions from the commission or the public. Hearing none, he asked for a motion on the Zone B projects. Mr. Bostock moved to approve, and Commissioner Lubitz seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Executive Director's Report

Director Dooley and Vice Chairman Loos noted that Ms. Davison would leave her position on July 7. They stated that she had done an exemplary job and wished her well with her schooling and future endeavors.

The Executive Director distributed the monthly work tally and discussed it. She noted that in the past months there has been an increase in the amount of projects submitted to the commission for review

Bridge Task Force

Director Dooley explained the purpose of the DRCC and DOT Joint Bridge Task Force. She distributed the powerpoint presentation she prepared that was presented at the most

recent Joint Bridge Task Force meeting. The powerpoint contained a list of 42 bridges over the D&R Canal with a description of each bridge's distinguishing construction characteristics and building materials.

Commissioner Stout explained that the task force's first step was to group the bridges by traits such as bridges leading to parking lots or bridges that see significant traffic. There was a discussion about wearing surfaces on bridges. Commissioner Stout discussed the competing challenges of historical quality, structural safety and cost.

Mr. von Zumbush noted that maintenance is a major issue when it comes to reaching an agreement with DOT. Director Dooley outlined the principle issue related to maintenance: If the bridge is consistently repaired and maintained, it will remain structurally safe. If the bridge is not maintained and allowed to become worn down, it will require complete replacement. The Commission needs to come to an agreement with DOT that allows consistent maintenance of the wooden bridges. Director Dooley informed the Commission that DOT suggested that perhaps the smaller bridges would not need a wearing surface. There was discussion of an engineer from Mercer County that introduced several creative ideas that would prevent the need for complete covering of asphalt. Vice Chairman Loos asked what wearing surface is used on the Route 518 bridge. Director Dooley confirmed that the surface is concrete.

Mr. von Zumbush brought up another issue concerning the concrete ends of the bridge. He also recognized that there are several bridges in the park that were not documented on the powerpoint presentation.

Vice Chairman Loos asked if DOT has prioritized any bridge out of the 42 from the powerpoint. Commissioner Stout informed him that DOT has 11 bridges that they believe are a priority. Commissioner Lubitz voiced his concern regarding height of the bridges from the water as it relates to boating.

Park Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Kalleser introduced her replacement while she is on maternity leave, Mr. Auermuller. The superintendent reported that Bartlett Tree Service is currently continuing treatment for emerald ash borer in Alexandria Township and heading south towards Bulls Island. By the end of the day, Bartlett will be 50% complete with the ash tree treatment. In addition, Bartlett would be completing from Bulls Island to Prallsville Mills the following day. Superintendent Kalleser announced that the Fernando House in Griggstown has been demolished, however the historic mills were saved.

New Jersey Water Supply Authority (NJWSA) Report

Mr. Sellar reported that the 10-Mile waste gate contractor will be on site in a couple months. Repair of the Lambertville leak is taking more time than anticipated due to large voids. The contractor has decided to use a different grout which will expand more. It is estimated that work on the Lambertville leak will be finished the following week. Mr. Sellar informed the commission that the bids for repair of the Blackwells Mills leak are currently under evaluation.

Ms. Desco provided an update on the Hydrilla treatment, including that NJWSA began treatment on May 31st at 1.8 parts per billion. After daily monitoring on 16 of the 22 days since the first treatment, staff decided to increase the dose from 1.8 to 2.8 parts per billion on June 15th. Ms. Desco provided pictures and samples of the Hydrilla deterioration process. Vice Chairmen Loos asked what the commission approved as the maximum dose, and Ms. Desco confirmed that it was 4 parts per billion. She went on to explain that the herbicide causes the plant to undergo a bleaching effect called chlorosis. The plant changes from dark green, to light green, to yellow, and finally to white. Commissioner Lubitz voiced his concern that NJWSA was increasing the amount of chemicals to target native plants instead of just the Hydrilla. Vice Chairman Loos asked if there was further comment from the commission and then opened discussion to the public. Mr. Barth confirmed with Ms. Desco the herbicide dose. Ms. Desco informed the commission that NJWSA will be conducting intense vegetation surveys at the end of each month to determine the duration of treatment, however she estimated that it could be up to 120 days. A full vegetation survey will be conducted in September.

Old/New Business

Bulls Island

Vice Chairman Loos suggested that discussion of Bulls Island be put on hold for the time being. There was no objection.

Odors in vicinity of Lambertville Sewerage Treatment Plant

Director Dooley repeated Mayor Palmer's report from last month, that he visited the facility and there was no apparent issue.

Electronic Submission of Application Materials

Director Dooley noted that she had revised the Electronic Data Policy as requested by the commission. The document was changed to remove the term "LOTUS", and refer to "voluntary" standards in paragraph 1. DAG Abatamarco noted that changes to the application process would require approval through a rule change process. Vice Chairman Loos asked Director Dooley to revise the document based on the discussion and present a draft for consideration at the next meeting.

Ethics Training

Vice Chairman Loos reminded all commissioners that they had been sent an email from Mr. Mulvan with information about a required ethics training course.

Bridges

There was further discussion of developing a standard bridge height from water level to bottom of the bridge which would allow for small boats, canoes, and kayaks. There was discussion about varying water levels in the canal. The standard height suggested was 36 inches. Director Dooley clarified that water levels might come closer to the bottom of a bridge if DOT was doing maintenance or an emergency repair.

Public Forum

Mr. Barth announced that the June 11th presentation on John Honeyman was a success, that Waterloo Village hosts an annual Canal Day on June 24th at the Gristmill from 10-4, and there would be a July 1st canal bike ride at 10:00 AM starting from Kingston.

Executive Session

Vice Chairman Loos stated the commission would enter executive session to discuss personell matters. Commissioner Stout moved to do so, and Commissioner Lubitz seconded the motion. It was approved unanimously. The commission entered executive session at 11:30 am.

Adjournment

The commission entered open session at 12:05 pm. Vice Chairman Loos called for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Lubitz moved to adjourn, Mr. Bostock seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 12:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Colleen Maloney for Marlene Dooley

Marlene Dooley, Secretary