



**June 17, 2020 Minutes of the Meeting
Delaware and Raritan Canal Commission**

TIME: 10:0 a.m.
DATE: June 17, 2020
PLACE: Prallsville Mills, Stockton, New Jersey

ATTENDING COMMISSIONERS:

Vice-Chairman John Loos; Director Olivia Glenn, designee for Commissioner Catherine McCabe; Commissioner Phillip Lubitz; Commissioner Douglas Palmer; Commissioner John Reiser; Commissioner Caryl Shoffner; and Commissioner Bruce Stout all participated via online platform and teleconference.

STAFF: Executive Director John Hutchison was present in the Commission conference room. Commission Engineer Joseph Ruggeri, Ms. Colleen Maloney, and Deputy Attorney General Jason Kane participated via online platform and teleconference.

GUESTS: Park Superintendent Patricia Kalleser; Marc Brooks, Executive Director New Jersey Water Supply Authority (NJWSA); Mike Sellar, NJWSA; Robert von Zumbusch, D&R Canal Commission Advisory Committee; Robert Barth, Canal Watch; Daniel Popkin; Rikki Massand; Linda Barth, Canal Watch.

Vice-Chairman Loos announced that this was a monthly meeting of the Delaware and Raritan Canal Commission and that the provisions of the “Senator Byron Baer Open Public Meetings Act” (OPMA) had been complied with in the scheduling of the meeting.

Vice-Chairman Loos announced that the meeting was being taped pursuant to the exception set forth at Section C.(1) of DEP Policy & Procedure 2.85 “Prohibition of Recording in the Workplace” Policy adopted on September 18, 2019.

Administrative Items

Since Commission members were participating via telephonic device pursuant to Article III, Section 4 of the Commission Bylaws, the Vice-Chairman directed the Executive Director to take the roll. There being seven Commissioners present, the Director indicated to the Vice-Chairman that a quorum was present, and that the transaction of Commission business could therefore proceed.

Vice-Chairman Loos confirmed the July 15, 2020 Commission meeting date and stated that, given the ongoing public health emergency and declared state of emergency related to the COVID-19 pandemic, that the meeting would likely be held via online platform and teleconference.

Minutes

Vice-Chairman Loos asked if there were any comments with respect to the May 20, 2020 meeting minutes, and, hearing none, he called for a motion. Commissioner Stout motioned to approve the minutes and Commissioner Lubitz seconded the motion. Commissioners Lubitz, Stout, Reiser, and Shoffner, and Vice-Chairman Loos voted to approve the motion. Commissioner Palmer and Director Glenn abstained. The motion carried.

Review Zone Projects

Zone A Projects

Vice-Chairman Loos noted that of the Zone A projects under consideration, 20-1706B 1 Elm Street Extension -- Proposed Garage/Artist Studio would be discussed separately.

20-1706B 1 Elm Street Extension -- Proposed Garage/Artist Studio

Commissioner Lubitz raised a point of order related to whether the project application was administratively complete. Specifically, he noted that the applicant submitted a revised landscaping plan to the Commission by email on June 17 at 7:23 a.m. Deputy Attorney General Kane responded that the consideration of the project at this meeting was effectively a rehearing, or reconsideration, of an administratively-complete project application which did not obtain sufficient votes to be approved at the May Commission meeting. He also noted that the revised landscape renderings would be considered supplemental to the materials which the applicant had already provided. Director Hutchison clarified that the revised landscaping plan was supplemental material prepared at the request of the Vice-Chairman subsequent to a site visit conducted during the week prior to this meeting, and the Commission was now being asked to reconsider the vote taken at the May meeting in light of the revised landscaping plan which contained enhanced vegetative screening of the project from the Delaware and Raritan Canal State Park multiuse trail.

Commissioner Lubitz noted he would not vote to approve the project, since there had been insufficient time provided to conduct a thorough review of the revised landscaping plan. Commissioner Reiser noted that applicants should not be permitted to make submissions at such a late date. Commissioner Reiser then made a motion to deny the application. Commissioner Lubitz seconded the motion. Vice-Chairman Loos asked for comments from other Commissioners. Commissioner Stout noted that he found the applicant had been responsive to the concerns raised by the Commission at the May meeting, and the directions of the Commissioners regarding the landscape screening. Commissioner Stout stated that he wished the Commission would move forward with its review of the project at today's meeting.

Commissioner Shoffner noted that the large amount of glass surface on the proposed structure would reflect the proposed plantings. Vice-Chairman Loos agreed that the glass would reflect the natural surroundings during the day, and noted that the park was closed at night.

Commissioner Lubitz stated his concern that the proportionality of the proposed project remained

incompatible with the adjacent residential dwelling on the property, and that the submitted rendering did not satisfy his concern that the proposed garage/studio structure was out of scale when compared with the existing residence. He also took issue with the landscaping choices, citing his experience with red cedars on his eight-acre property. Specifically, Commissioner Lubitz noted that his home was screened with Eastern Red Cedar, and that silver maple eventually overwhelmed the cedars. Commissioner Lubitz observed that the proposed plantings could cause damage to the multiuse trail surface by uplifting the surface of the path. He also disagreed with the planting of maple trees in proximity to the cedars and noted that cedar branches are brittle by nature and are often broken by the weight of snow in winter.

Director Hutchison noted that the proposed planting of Eastern Red Cedar was requested by the Commission staff in consultation with the park superintendent. He noted that the applicant had been willing to replace the red cedars with white pine or another evergreen species directed by the Commission.

Vice-Chairman Loos and Commissioner Lubitz discussed the effectiveness of using white pines as a screen in staggered rows, and Commissioner Lubitz observed that the pines would grow quickly. He has planted 100 of them on his property. Director Hutchison shared the site plan which showed the proposed landscaping.

Vice-Chairman Loos called for comment from the members of the public.

Mr. von Zumbusch noted the Commission should insist that the conifer trees be planted in a double row and two cedars or several pines would assist in completely hiding the building. Commissioner Stout asked if the applicant would agree to swap white pine for the proposed cedars, to be planted in two staggered rows. Vice-Chairman Loos and Mr. von Zumbusch discussed the placement of trees in the proximity of an existing propane tank noted on the Plan of Survey submitted by the applicant.

Mr. Popkin and Vice-Chairman Loos discussed revising the proposed landscaping plan based upon the foregoing discussion. Mr. Popkin stated he had been working cooperatively with Director Hutchison to place trees, that his preference would be to plant the Eastern Red Cedar, and that he did not wish to plant a double row of trees.

Vice-Chairman Loos noted that there was a motion before the Commission to deny the application. Commissioner Stout noted he did not like the proportions of the new building when compared with those of the existing residence, and he could not support the project if the applicant did not block the project from the view of a person in the park. Vice-Chairman Loos and Mr. Popkin discussed whether he would agree to the planting of a double row of trees.

Commissioner Reiser inquired whether it was appropriate for an applicant to submit revised plans to the Commission one hour before a meeting and expect that those revised plans be considered. Vice-Chairman Loos explained that the project was found to be administratively-complete by the Executive Director, and that Commission was taking additional testimony and requesting additional documents. Mr. Popkin noted that the project plan was submitted a few weeks ago with the understanding that Eastern Red Cedar would be used for the vegetative screen, and that he had been working with the Director to finalize landscaping over the last week.

June 17, 2020

Vice-Chairman Loos called for vote on the motion to deny the application. Director Hutchison clarified that the motion before the Commission was to deny the application, made by Commissioner Reiser, seconded by Commissioner Lubitz.

The Director then called the roll:

Vice Chairman Loos	Yes
Director Glenn	Yes
Commissioner Reiser	Yes
Commissioner Stout	Yes
Commissioner Shoffner	Yes
Commissioner Lubitz	Yes
Commissioner Palmer	Yes

The Vice-Chairman then said he would entertain a new motion. Commissioner Stout then moved that the project be approved as described in the staff report with a modification to the landscaping plan, in which: the proposed red cedar trees would be replaced by a staggered double row of white pine; that additional trees would be planted between the proposed building and residence near the existing propane tank; that the final details of the landscaping plan would be worked out with the Executive Director of the Commission and the applicant; and, that the spicebush plantings in the original landscaping plan would remain in the final landscaping plan. Commissioner Palmer seconded the motion. Vice-Chairman Loos called for a vote.

The Director then called the roll:

Vice Chairman Loos	Yes
Director Glenn	Yes
Commissioner Reiser	Yes
Commissioner Stout	Yes
Commissioner Shoffner	Yes
Commissioner Lubitz	No
Commissioner Palmer	Yes

The motion was approved. Vice-Chairman Loos thanked Mr. Popkin for his patience in working with the Commission.

Vice-Chairman Loos called for a motion on the remaining Zone A projects. Director Hutchison noted that the project, DRCC #20-5541 -- 2 Main Street, was not administratively-complete because it lacked county approval. Therefore, the Director noted that the project could not be considered pursuant to the provisions of N.J.A.C. 7:45-3.2. Commissioner Lubitz moved to approve the remaining Zone A projects, being 20-2903H -- 1365 Lamberton Road, and 20-3670A -- 30 South Main Street Demolition. Commissioner Stout seconded the motion.

Mr. von Zumbusch requested to speak regarding 20-2903H -- 1365 Lamberton Road. He noted that the development of the former-PSE&G Mercer Generating Station site into a warehouse facility was a

“missed opportunity” to preserve an important rural area and improve the visual impact of the site, which is located within 1,000 feet of the Delaware and Raritan Canal. Vice-Chairman Loos noted that the plan included a vegetative screen comprised of native vegetation as part of the project. Mr. von Zumbusch stated that the proposed vegetation was not sufficient for the site when balanced against the benefits of preserving the site as open space, and that the applicant should have been compelled to design the project so that the proposed access road would be located within the middle part of the site, and thus further from the canal.

The Vice-Chairman Loos then called for a vote.

The Director called the roll:

Vice Chairman Loos	Yes
Director Glenn	Yes
Commissioner Reiser	Yes
Commissioner Stout	Yes
Commissioner Shoffner	Yes
Commissioner Lubitz	Yes
Commissioner Palmer	Yes

The motion was approved. The project was approved unanimously.

Zone B Projects

Vice-Chairman Loos asked for a motion to approve the following Zone B projects:

19-0663A	Innovation Park at East Windsor (East Windsor Township)
18-1082A	330 Wyckoff Mills Road -- Proposed Warehouse Development (East Windsor Township)
20-2441W	Princeton University East Campus -- Excavation/Geo-Thermal (Municipality of Princeton)
19-5515	619 Somerset Street -- Proposed Commercial Redevelopment (Franklin Township)

Commissioner Stout motioned to approve the four Zone B projects, which motion was seconded by Commissioner Palmer. The motion was approved unanimously.

20-5520 NJDOT Route 206 -- Doctors Way to Valley Road Improvements (Hillsborough Township)

Vice-Chairman Loos noted that the project was the subject of a public hearing earlier that morning. When an applicant requests to vacate an easement held with the Commission, a public hearing is required in accordance with the New Jersey Conservation Restriction and Historic Preservation Restriction Act, N.J.S.A. 13:8B-1 et seq. Vice-Chairman Loos reported that no member of the public offered any comments at that hearing, and that the public would still have an opportunity to submit comments on the extinguishment of the easement until July 1.

Vice-Chairman Loos and Deputy Attorney General Kane discussed the procedural aspects of the Commission approving a project at the June 17 meeting while the public comment period on the easement portion of the project continued until July 1. Mr. Kane stated the Commission was required to conduct the public hearing and accept comments; however, it is ultimately the Commissioner of

Environmental Protection who must evaluate and approve or deny the lifting of the existing conservation easement. Vice-Chairman Loos noted that it was important to provide the public with a fair process with respect of the public hearing. Director Hutchison observed the process as expressed in the statute at N.J.S.A. 13:8B-6 vests the Commissioner of Environmental Protection with the ultimate authority to approve or deny the easement extinguishment based upon her over-arching responsibility to ensure environmental protection for the entire State. He noted that if the DEP Commissioner ultimately declined to approve the extinguishment of the existing conservation easement based on compelling public comment between now and July 1, a Commission certificate of approval could not be issued for the larger NJDOT project. The certificate of approval could only be issued by the Commission after the NJDOT executed revised conservation easement agreements which were necessitated by the project design. Director Hutchison stated that comments would be directed to himself, and to the Section Chief Tina Shutz at NJDOT.

Vice-Chairman Loos asked for a motion on the project. Commissioner Stout moved to approve the project and Commissioner Lubitz seconded the motion. The Vice-Chairman then asked Commissioners for any comments or questions.

Commissioner Lubitz observed that the current project under review by the Commission was in fact one portion of an ongoing project to improve Route 206, and that the project before the Commission would be followed by another project at a future date. He asked for clarification of the 2:1 ratio of mitigation for the stream corridor conservation easement areas that would be intruded upon under the current project. Section Chief Shutz and Mr. Stoner, the project engineer, described the offsite compensation areas in the vicinity of Valley Road, and clarified that the size of the newly-proposed easement areas was 1.87 acres.

Mr. Massand asked the NJDOT where the public could obtain the record of the February 26, 2020 public meeting on the Route 206 project held in Hillsborough Township. Mr. Stoner stated there had been three separate “public information centers” related to the Route 206 project; two for the Doctors Way to Valley Road portion of the project, and one for the Valley Road to Brown portion. Mr. Stoner also noted that they had received comments regarding the proposed reforestation aspects of the project.

Vice Chairman Loos called for a vote on the project.

The Director called the roll:

Vice Chairman Loos	Yes
Director Glenn	Abstain
Commissioner Reiser	Yes
Commissioner Stout	Yes
Commissioner Shoffner	Yes
Commissioner Lubitz	Yes
Commissioner Palmer	Yes

The motion was approved.

Executive Director’s Report

Director Hutchison reported on the workload for the period encompassing May 20 to June 16. In addition to the projects on the Commission agenda, the staff had prepared 13 staff reports on deficient projects, 6 jurisdictional determinations, 8 certificate of approval, and one General Permit No. 1. The Director noted that despite the limitations placed upon the staff by the need to work remotely during the COVID-19 public health emergency and state of emergency, the staff had been consistently able to maintain normal operations.

The Director reported on fee collections for the prior month, which totaled \$51,700. He further noted that there had not been an appreciable fall in fee collections following the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, and that the Commission would be able to meet its budgetary obligations for the remainder of the extended fiscal year.

The Director reported on nine remote pre-application meetings held since the May Commission meeting, as well as a site visit conducted with Commissioner Stout and the Executive Director of the Delaware River Joint Toll Bridge Commission regarding the storage of surplus Joint Toll Bridge Commission vehicles in the area immediately south of the Route 202 New Hope-Lambertville Bridge. The Director noted that there may be an opportunity to use mitigation monies related to another proposed project to create a vegetated screen that could serve to block the view of those vehicles from a person standing in the Delaware and Raritan Canal State Park.

The Director reported on the addition of new information to the Commission website, especially planning documents and copies of the 1937 right-of-way maps that had been prepared as the basis for the transfer of the former Delaware and Raritan Canal property to the State of New Jersey by the United New Jersey Railroad and Canal Company and the Pennsylvania Railroad Company. He noted that the new website was a “living” document, and that he welcomed suggestions for additions and improvements to the site from the Commissioners and members of the public.

The Director reported on a meeting held with Mr. William White of the DEP Office of Natural Resource Development and the architectural firm retained by the Department to discuss the next phase of design and construction regarding the Commission office. Mr. Hutchison noted that the next phase of renovations would involve the installation of gutters on the west elevation, replacement of the exterior windows whose seals have all failed, and replacement of exterior siding damaged by insects and woodpeckers. The next phase of renovations would cost approximately \$80,000 and would commence in the fall of 2020. The Director expressed the hope that with mild weather, it might be possible to undertake the painting of the office exterior before the onset of winter. Vice-Chairman Loos expressed appreciation to Director Hutchison for addressing the issue of improving the physical plant of the Commission office, which had suffered in recent years. Commissioner Lubitz concurred.

Director Hutchison informed the Commissioners of the outcome of an unusual inquiry he received from a member of the public, who reported seeing a turtle of immense size in the Delaware and Raritan Canal at Bulls Island Recreation Area. The member of the public, a retired clergyman who was clearly not engaged in a practical joke, was concerned that the animal could pose a threat to other park patrons. The average size of a common snapping turtle (*Chelydra serpentina*) native to the freshwater bodies of New Jersey is 8-14 inches and the record size is 86 pounds, and 19 ½ inches in length, so a report of a 4-foot long turtle would be remarkable.

The Director forwarded the information about the turtle sighting to the Superintendent and Stephanie Fox, the park naturalist. While unlikely, they discussed the possibility that the animal could be an invasive giant alligator snapping turtle (*Macrochelys temminckii*), a species common to the Midwest and Southern United States which are often sold in the exotic pet trade, and that someone may have abandoned it in the canal when they could or would no longer care for it.

The Park Service subsequently monitored the section of the canal from Bulls Island and eventually noticed a large female common snapping turtle of considerable age and size. The particular animal was known to the park staff and distinguishable from other turtles by her size and old healed injury on her front foot. She has been returning to Bulls Island annually for many years to lay her eggs and appears otherwise to be in good health. It was the opinion of the park naturalist that the turtle should be left alone, and that no human intervention was warranted.

Park Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Kalleser noted that Phase 1 Archaeological report was submitted for the Port Mercer Canal House in Lawrence Township as part of the preparation for the installation of the new septic system, which would replace the failed system at the historic building. The Superintendent noted that the repairs were funded, in part, using mitigation monies supplied by the Commission as a result of a project in Lawrence Township.

Superintendent Kalleser reported that six rescues were required on the Delaware River during the weekend preceding the Commission meeting, and that DEP Division of Parks and Forestry staff had acted in a heroic manner to assist two people in the canal at Bulls Island Recreation Area.

The Superintendent reported on continued illegal swimming in the canal at the Prallsville Mills complex. She noted that area youths had taken to dragging one of the complex picnic tables on the former-Belvidere and Delaware railroad trestle bridge that conveys the park multiuse trail over the Wickecheoke Creek and the canal, and then launching themselves from the picnic table into the waters below. In order to combat such dangerous and illegal behavior, the Superintendent directed the Delaware River Mill Society to secure the tables so that they could not be moved in future.

The Superintendent reported that as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, Division of Parks and Forestry staff were constructing and installing plexi-glass "sneeze guards" and other barriers at the park offices, as well as monitoring park patron activities to ensure that social distancing practices were being observed within the Delaware and Raritan Canal State Park.

The Superintendent reported on the progress her staff had made in applying for a National Recreational Trail grant for the resurfacing of the park multiuse trail area in Somerset County, from the Rockingham State Historic site to County Route No. 518, and perhaps further on to the Little Valley stables area.

Superintendent Kalleser reported that the New Jersey American Water Company (NJAW) was issued a Special Use Permit for the in-kind replacement of two existing deteriorating sections of grating on the company's foot bridge over the Delaware and Raritan Canal near the confluence of the Millstone and Raritan rivers in the vicinity of Weston Canal Road, Franklin Township, Somerset County. Finally, she reported that an ongoing project to repair fence rails at the Rockingham Historic Site would continue.

June 17, 2020

Commissioner Lubitz thanked the Park Service for opening access to cyclists through the Bulls Island Recreation Area to the Lumberville-Raven Rock pedestrian bridge.

New Jersey Water Supply Authority (NJWSA)

Mr. Sellar reported that the contractor was mobilizing to continue their work on the canal dredging project. Mr. Sellar reported that the project to repair the canal embankment in Franklin Township near the NJAW footbridge had gone out for public bid.

Mr. Sellar reported that the Hydrilla herbicide program for the upcoming season would start on June 29, and that the NJWSA would place signage along the canal at various intervals from Lambertville to State Highway Route No. 18 in New Brunswick.

Mr. Sellar reported that as part of the project to rehabilitate the Six-Mile Run Culvert, which is located approximately 1,000 feet south of Blackwells Mills Road, a dye test was conducted by the Authority's consulting engineers to assess the culvert's condition. The culvert carries the Six-Mile Run stream under Canal Road, the Delaware and Raritan Canal, and the multi-use path. The inlet and outlet ends of the culvert have been repaired several times, but there are no records of rehabilitation of the interior culvert barrels. The dye test indicated that at present there was no leak emanating from the culvert.

Mr. Sellar reported that a contractor had been engaged by Transco and would mobilize on June 22 to make a permanent repair to their pipeline infrastructure along the canal embankment and the Delaware River near Scudder Falls in Ewing Township, Mercer County.

Following up on the reported illegal dumping of construction debris in the canal at Canal Road and Suydam Road in Franklin Township, Mr. Sellar stated that the materials removed from the canal by NJWSA staff were being tested for the presence of asbestos.

Mr. Sellar reported that NJWSA crews were mowing grass areas at canal facilities as usual, but that due to the implementation of social distancing protocols as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, tree maintenance work had been suspended.

Commissioner Stout requested that the NJWSA provide the Commissioners with a report on the status of the proposed repairs to the earthen embankment which separates the canal from the Delaware River down canal of the Prallsville Lock in Stockton Borough at the July meeting.

Old Business

Vice-Chairman Loos presented a draft of a proposed Commission Resolution No, 2020-01, which related to the salary increase for the Executive Director approved by the Commission in November of 2017 and had not been implemented by the DEP Human Resources office. He noted his efforts in working with the DEP Human Resources, and that he was told the Executive Director position was now represented by IBEW Local 30, and that the decision to assign the Executive Director to a bargaining unit was undertaken without any consultation with, or notification to, the membership of the Commission.

The Vice-Chairman called for a motion on the resolution. Commissioner Lubitz moved to approve the resolution and Commissioner Stout seconded the motion.

Commissioner Stout noted that it was his preference to work collaboratively with the DEP on matters that impact the Commission. However, he noted that the Commission's enabling statute is crystal clear on the Commission's authority to retain and set the compensation for the Commission's staff. He noted that the Commission has tried a variety of ways to move forward on its unresolved human resource issues without success, and that given the sustained lack of cooperation from DEP Human Resources he therefore supported adoption of the Vice-Chairman's proposed resolution.

Director Glenn, Vice-Chairman Loos and Commissioner Stout discussed salary levels and what level of manager titles are represented by the IBEW.

Commissioner Lubitz agreed with Commissioner Stout that he would prefer to work collaboratively with the DEP on the matter, but that DEP has not been responsive.

Vice-Chairman Loos stated that, if the resolution were to be adopted, it would be sent to the Legislature and may result in a hearing to further define and clarify the Commission's statutory authority. He also observed that the issue touches upon a fundamental question which went to the heart of why the Legislature created the Commission in the first place: is the Executive Director answerable to the Commission, or is the Director responsible to the DEP bureaucracy? The Vice-Chairman noted that if the DEP took one position on a public policy issue impacting the Delaware and Raritan Canal State Park, and the Commission took the opposite position -- which was the case with the closure of the northern portion of the Bulls Island Recreation Area during the Christie Administration -- the Director must have the ability to represent, advocate for, and if need be defend, the authority and prerogatives of the Commission consistent with the law.

The Vice-Chairman called for comment from the public on the resolution. Hearing none, he called for a vote on DRCC Resolution No. 2020-01, copies of which had been provided to the Commissioners in advance of the meeting and posted on the Commission website for public review:

The Director called the roll:

Vice Chairman Loos	Yes
Director Glenn	Abstain
Commissioner Reiser	Yes
Commissioner Stout	Yes
Commissioner Shoffner	Yes
Commissioner Lubitz	Yes
Commissioner Palmer	Absent

The motion was approved.

Mr. von Zumbusch requested to elaborate upon his remarks concerning the redevelopment of the former PSE&G Mercer Generating Station. He stated that the failure of the State Government to preserve the site as public open space was "tragic" and that the Commission should have taken a more active role in the process of acquiring open space adjacent to the Delaware and Raritan Canal. He noted that the Commission should seek properties that are adjacent to the canal and could have an impact upon the

June 17, 2020

park. He further stated that when it became apparent that PSE&G was going to decommission and dispose of the Mercer Generating Station, it should have raised a “red flag” to the Commission, given the site’s critical environmental sensitivity in the Abbott Marshlands.

Vice-Chairman Loos noted that DEP Green Acres Program is the entity vested with the authority and monies to research and acquire properties that could expand the park. Mr. von Zumbusch countered that this should in fact be a role of the Commission.

Director Hutchison noted that, in the area of Lamberton Road in Hamilton, within the area of the so-called “abandoned” section of the canal, the Commission did have a Review Zone A, but that a Review Zone B does not exist. The regulatory jurisdiction of the Commission in this area was therefore circumscribed. Mr. von Zumbusch stated that notwithstanding the Commission’s jurisdiction, the Commission should be exploring opportunities to preserve land adjacent to the park.

Director Hutchison stated that the Commission staff maintained regular contact with the DEP Office of Green Acres, and that he was at present engaged in conversations with Mrs. Renee Jones and Ms. Judeth Yeane of that office, as well as with Superintendent Kalleser, regarding possible additions to the Delaware and Raritan Canal State Park. He further noted that he was at present conferring with Green Acres regarding the potential acquisition of a property on Wilburtha Road in Ewing Township that abuts the canal multiuse trail, and that it would not be the most appropriate use of the Commission’s full-time staff of three employees to duplicate the role of the outstanding employees of the Green Acres program. Vice-Chairman Loos suggested that the Director obtain information regarding recent Green Acres acquisitions that have expanded the Delaware and Raritan Canal State Park and report them to the Commissioners at a future meeting.

New Business

Commissioner Lubitz reported on action taken by Hunterdon County to acquire six acres in Milford with the intent to extend the trail from Frenchtown to Milford.

Public Session

There was no public comment.

Executive Session

None.

Adjournment

There being no other business, Vice-Chairman Loos entertained a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Stout moved to adjourn, which was seconded by Commission Shoffner. Vice-Chairman Loos called for a vote on the motion to adjourn, which was approved unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

June 17, 2020

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Hutchison". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

John Hutchison, Secretary