

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING**  
**October 18, 2017**

**Delaware and Raritan Canal Commission**

TIME: 10:00 a.m.  
DATE: October 18, 2017  
PLACE: Prallsville Mills Grist Mill  
Stockton, New Jersey

**Attending:**

COMMISSIONERS: Vice Chairman John Loos, Commissioners Mary Leck, Bruce Stout, Douglas Palmer (by phone), and Mr. Bob Bostock (designee for DEP Commissioner Bob Martin)

STAFF: Mr. John Hutchison, Ms. Colleen Christie Maloney, Mr. Joe Ruggeri, Deputy Attorney General Melissa Abatemarco

GUESTS: Mr. Mike Sellar, NJWSA; Ms. Heather Desko, NJWSA; Mr. Rob Auermuller, NJ State Park Service; Mr. Robert von Zumbusch, DRCC Master Plan Advisory Committee; Mr. Robert Barth, D&R Canal Watch; Ms. Taylor Forster.

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 Act," N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq., had been complied with in regard to the scheduling of the meeting.

**Administrative Items**

Vice Chairman Loos confirmed that the next month's meeting date will be November 15, 2017. He noted he would not be able attend, and that Commissioner Lubitz would chair the meeting.

**Minutes of the Meeting**

Minutes of the Meeting of September 20, 2017

Commissioner Stout moved to approve the minutes. Commissioner Leck seconded the motion. The minutes of the meeting were unanimously approved.

Minutes of the Executive Session of the Meeting of September 20, 2017

Commissioner Stout moved to approve the minutes. Commissioner Leck seconded the motion. The minutes of the meeting were unanimously approved.

## **Review Zone Projects**

### **Review Zone A Projects**

Vice Chairman Loos asked the commission for questions or comments on the Zone A projects:

17-2092F Lambertville Station Shed Demolition

17-5032 Clinton Street Wall and ADA Improvements (Lambertville)

There was discussion about 17-2092F Lambertville Station Shed Demolition. Mr. Bostock moved to approve the projects and Commissioner Leck seconded the motion. Commissioner Stout requested of Mr. Bostock to include in his motion that, should the applicant demolish the building and remove the foundation, that topsoil be placed in the area be and that it be seeded. Mr. Bostock agreed to the change in the motion, as did Commissioner Leck. The commission voted unanimously to approve the two projects as recommended, the first of which would have a condition in the approval for topsoil and seeding in the event that the foundation of the building was to be removed.

### **Review Zone B Projects**

Vice Chairman Loos asked the commission for questions or comments on the Zone B projects:

17-3401A 512 Route 33 (Millstone Twp)

16-1929B Central Jersey College Prep Charter School: Mettlers Road (Franklin)

17-2875A Franklin Twp Municipal Building Stormwater Basin Retrofit (Franklin)

17-3144E Gauguin Way Stormwater Basin Retrofit (Franklin)

17-1056B Nissan Warehouse Expansion (Franklin)

17-4960B Montgomery Twp Upper Middle School Tennis Courts

Commissioner Stout moved to approve the Zone B projects and Mr. Bostock seconded the motion. The projects were approved unanimously.

## **Executive Director's Report**

Director Hutchison reported on the staff's workload and fees for the preceding month. He reported on the successful installation of a virtual private network (VPN) in the Commission office, and how the VPN provides the Commission with the IT security benefits of the "Garden State Network." Director Hutchison also noted that he would be upgrading the office Internet speed to 50mbps from the present 15mbps. The Director reported progress related to a file scanning project, purchase of an office vehicle, roof replacement, and HVAC replacement. He reported that the Somerset County Improvement Authority has contacted the staff on the solar panel project at the Montgomery High School and that he is in discussions with the Somerset County Road Department staff related to the installation of pedestrian-activated devices at crosswalks near the canal towpath. The Director reported on personnel and budget matters, and reported that the Regional Plan Association would present at the November commission meeting regarding its proposal to implement a regional trail network.

Vice Chairman Loos requested that as the Commission moves to a new website, that a goal should be for the site to accommodate the electronic submission of application materials. This would, in turn, reduce the amount of paper files maintained by the Commission, and reduce scanning costs in the long-run.

### **D and R Canal State Park Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent Auermuller reported on ash tree removal, park closures related to the I-95 Scudder Falls bridge project, the Blackwell Mills Causeway planting project, the Holcombe House auction, an RFP at the Mapleton Preserve, the progress at the Mercer Mall drainage pipe, and a sight visit to the South Bound Brook Bridge over the canal.

### **NJ Water Supply Authority (NJWSA) Report**

Mr. Sellar reported on the dredging project, which will be three-years duration. He reported on the 10-Mile waste gate replacement which will be now be fabricated of stainless steel. Mr. Sellar reported that repairs to the Griggstown waste gate were under engineering design, design for repairs at the Landing Lane Spillway and Raritan River bank rehab are under review in the Governor's office, and the Island Farm Weir fish ladder is closed up. Commissioner Stout and Mr. Sellar discussed repair areas south of Bull's Island and the tarped area along the canal towpath in Stockton.

Ms. Deska reported on the Hydrilla program and plans for continued monitoring. The program will be applied next year as well. A new invasive, Fanwort, has been discovered as well.

### **Old Business**

Vice Chairman Loos and Director Hutchison discussed the Easton Avenue pedestrian bridge. Mr. Auermuller reported on the ongoing plans for the pedestrian bridge at the site. Commissioner Loos reported that, locally, he had heard there could be a problem related to the presence of hazardous materials on the site.

Commissioner Stout asked for an update on the swing bridge planned to be constructed with mitigation funds from the I-95 Scudder Falls Bridge project. Mr. Auermuller noted he would get information.

### **Public Forum**

Mr. von Zumbusch supplied information on the Request for Interest for the Mapleton Preserve, and the interest expressed by one party to develop an event space at the site. They will now proceed for an RFP. He noted his interest in preserving the cultural landscape along the canal. Mr. von Zumbusch reported on activities by the Kingston Historic Society related to a walk that Sunday along the railroad and canal with a visit to the Locktender's House, and he included information about the society's annual meeting November 7, at 7:30 pm, at the firehouse, showing a film, "Kingston at the Crossroads".

### **Executive Session**

Vice Chairman Loos noted the commission would need to enter executive session to discuss personnel matters. Mr. Bostock moved to enter executive session and Commissioner Stout seconded the motion, which was adopted unanimously at 10:45 a.m.

### **Public Session and Adjournment**

At 11:00 a.m., the commissioner returned to public session. Vice Chairman Loos asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Bostock moved to adjourn the meeting and Commissioner Stout seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John Hutchison  
Secretary