

Collegetown, Pennsylvania
COUNCIL MINUTES
FEBRUARY 7, 2001

Council President Arnold Mann called the February 7, 2001 meeting to order. Answering roll call were Mann, Leming, Stagliano, Goetz and Richardson. Mr. Draksler was absent. Also in attendance were Albert L. Herrmann, Borough Manager, Andrew B. Cantor, Esquire, Thomas Smith, Borough Engineer, Police Chief Bucher, Mayor Dennis Parker, Anthony Berardi, Treasurer and Donna Artiuch Secretary.

Councilwoman Stagliano asked Scout Troop 87 and Pack 707 to lead the pledge of allegiance. Councilwoman Stagliano presented certificates of recognition to Troop 87 and Pack 707 for their efforts to clean up Collegetown Borough Park and the Collegetown Dam area.

The meeting at Borough Hall then recessed and reconvened to the Collegetown Fire Company because of the large crowd present.

PERKIOMEN CREEK DAM

Meeting Open for Public Discussion

Council President Mann explained that Collegetown was given notification by the state that action must be taken to rebuild or remove the dam. The Borough has until March 1, 2001 to accept the Growing Greener Grant. President Mann further explained that the \$134,100 Growing Greener Grant can only be used to remove the dam.

Dan Helwig –4180 Creek Road, Skippack – Mr. Helwig read a statement expressing his concerns about the removal of the dam (statement attached). Mr. Helwig introduced Douglas Blazely, Esquire, who represents the Collegetown Dam Society who also supports the restoration of the dam. Mr. Blazely suggested that Council contact DEP to get a time extension in order to give the subject more study.

Amanda Helwig – Ursinus College – Read a letter from Barbara Paul of the Watershed Conservancy urging Council not to remove the dam until further studies were completed.

The following people expressed their views and concerns:

Sandy Liberatore, Esq. – Questioned the state's action in issuing a grant that could only be used to remove the dam and not repair it.

Mr. Kalinke – Schwenksville – Stated that Council was destroying the Perkiomen Valley by removing the dam.

James Rafferty – Third Avenue stated he felt there were more important things that needed to be done in the Borough with tax dollars other than repairing the dam.

Phyllis Parsons – Chestnut Street – Reiterated the history of the dam. Stated that now it is a nuisance, a danger and a liability. She feels it should be removed and return the creek to its natural state.

James Watters, of Port Indian Concerned Citizens voiced issues concerning the silt that would be released into the water if the dam was removed and contaminate drinking water down stream.

Carol Hendricks-Skipack Township stated she felt the dam should be removed for safety reasons.

Caesar Gorsky – Mt. Airy Road – Skippack . Stated he felt that community groups could repair the dam at a reduced cost. Also suggested that Council re-apply to the state for another grant to repair the dam.

Norman Hunsberger – Park Avenue – Felt that the dam should be left to breach on its own. He is opposed to using grant money to remove the dam and is also against using tax dollars to repair it.

Chari Townem of the Schuylkill Riverkeepers urged Council to vote in favor of removing the dam.

Larry DiPiano – Avon Avenue – Questioned if this grant was used to remove the dam, what would it take to replace the dam.

Susan Hunt – Fourth Avenue – Would like to see the dam remain as a recreation area.

Ralph Yocum - Stratford Avenue – Does not feel that \$600,000 is needed to repair the dam. Also stated he did not feel there was a need to use the grant to remove the dam at this time.

Ted McGinley-Maykut Avenue – Said that the dam should be removed because it is a hazard.

Robert Botti – Clahor Avenue – The borough has a grant for \$134,100 to remove the dam the repairs to the dam would be \$600,00. Removing the dam is a financial decision.

Attorney Douglas Blazey on behalf of the Collegeville Dam Society stated that the community is clearly divided on this issue. He asked to Council complete further studies before making a decision.

Scott Carney, of the State Fish and Boat Commission – Was in favor of removing the dam and stated that the creek level behind the dam will drop 3” to 4” and that the silt from behind the dam has been analyzed.

Councilwomen Stagliano stated she did an informal poll of 85 Collegeville residents – “78 wanted the dam removed, 4 wanted the dam repaired and three were unsure”.

Public Discussion Closed.

Motion by Stagliano and Richardson to accept the state grant to remove the dam. In a roll call vote Council members, Mann, Goetz, Richardson, Jr. Stagliano and Leming voted unanimously to adopt a resolution to utilize the Growing Greener Grant to remove the Perkiomen Creek Dam. Councilman Draksler was absent.