

SPECIAL MEETING OF  
COLLEGE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL  
HELD ON JANUARY 27, 1976  
IN THE TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL BUILDING

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Chairman John Ziegler. The reading of the Minutes were dispensed with due to this being a special meeting. Other members of the Council present were: Donald E. Bailey, J. Carroll Dean, Clarence E. Trotter, Dolores A. Taricani. Also in attendance were Elwood C. Williams, Sr. Manager, and Robert A. Frederick-Treasurer, Denise Bowman Emers of the Pennsylvania Mirror and Charles DuBois of the Centre Daily Times.

OLD BUSINESS

Bi-Centennial Covered Bridge. To begin the discussion, an excerpt was read from the Township Planning Commission's Minutes of meeting held on January 15, 1976, in which they stated because of the size of the covered bridge and consideration of terrain, the #3 (lower location) is presently endorsed by the Planning Commission; that there is need for more than one bridge so that the Scout project is still very much desired. A motion was made to the effect that the Planning Commission feels that the best location for the proposed covered bridge would be the location downstream.

A letter, dated January 19, 1976, was received from the representative of the Centre Region Park and Recreation Board, Mrs. Thyrza White, indicating the Board recommends the Bicentennial Covered Bridge at Spring Creek Park be placed at the 3rd, downstream, location designated by the Park Architects, providing that the acceptance of this bridge does not hinder the completion of the "Boy Scout Bridge" at the first, upstream, location.

A letter from the Centre Region Consciousness Group, dated January 27, 1976, was read by the Chairman of the Group, Karin Shaw, confining their

comments to aesthetics. They felt the covered bridge would be much better suited to a site with existing old buildings or historic associations, such as Tallyrand Park in Bellefonte or the Boal Mansion in Boalsburg. They concluded by saying that if the decision is made to build this bridge, they urge that it be constructed as far from the existing buildings as possible, and placed so that the increased traffic close to the creek will not increase the chances of damage to the large willow tree at the site.

Mr. Dean expressed agreement with Mrs. Shaw about getting it farther away. A discussion was held on a 4th location at the park and the members retired to the end of the room to look at the master plan of Spring Creek Park. Mr. Dean had indicated on the plan the "4th location" which would be beyond the furthestmost location previously indicated. He further indicated that his purpose was not to get it located out of the park.

Mr. Trotter thought that maybe this would place it too far downstream; that it would not be used that often and would be away from the activity in the park.

Mr. Ron Weis, speaking as a registered architect who works in recreational architecture, disagreed with the Consciousness Group's characterization of the bridge, stating aesthetics are a matter of taste and that different people have different tastes. Mr. Weis, who is also the Chairman of the Planning Commission, had submitted a written decision made by the Commission to the Council which had previously been read into the record along with the excerpt from the Commission's meeting minutes.

Mrs. Taricani asked the Civil Engineering student representative, Bruce Peterson, what his feelings were about the proposed location as opposed to Location #3. He felt there was no objection to the location but in turn asked what happens to the location indicated on the master plan - is it moved down or what? He felt it would be a lot nicer at the 3rd site because the

trees which have been planted will grow and cause the bridge to blend in with the surroundings. Mr. Art Miller added to Mr. Peterson's comments and Mr. Aron felt it would blend in very well with the willow tree already there.

Mr. Deeslie, who was opposed to the bridge being placed in the park from the first, felt that Mr. Dean's suggestion about the location #4 was a good one. He stated that the willow tree at the site proposed was a rather old one and probably would not be standing too many more years. He also felt that since the other side of the stream had not been developed yet, there was not that much need for another bridge.

Mr. Ziegler stepped down from his chairmanship to make a statement. He felt that there have been trees planted and that the park is not always going to be open park land as it now is. He stated that we may not live long enough to see it but there will be a time when a covered bridge would blend in very well with the landscaping that has been done.

Mrs. Taricani felt that if the bridge is acceptable to the majority of the residents then we should go ahead and have it built and in the location that would serve as many people as possible.

Mr. Robert Ayer reflected on a few things that have happened; that not all of the proper people were notified of this tour to the park, about the traffic flow, vandalism, etc. He was glad to hear that if a covered bridge is to be put in the park that a good location had been picked and not one that would be in the main area where all the activity is. With his concern in connection with vandalism, he wished to indicate that he is not opposed to the project, just concerned about the type of materials that will be used in reference to the maintenance and upkeep costs. He mentioned that it may be more of a burden than help for those who have to take care of it. He is in favor of the bridge proposed by the Boy Scout Gregg Niemann.

Mrs. Thyrsa White made a few comments restating the position as written to the Council in her letter as representative of the Centre Region Parks & Recreation Board.

Mr. Bailey said that he had gone to the site on Saturday, January 10, since he had not received an invitation to tour the park the Saturday before when the others had been there, and he came to the conclusion that it was to be situated below the bridge proposed by Scout Niemann.

Four photographs were given to the Council showing the bridge overlaid on a photo of the area proposed for the bridge. This had been suggested by the Planning Commission at their meeting held December 18, 1975.

It was also asked if the proposed location #4 was anywhere near the equestrian trail? It apparently is near by. Mr. Bailey's concern was whether the people wouldn't start riding horses through the bridge with it being so close to the trail. Mr. Dean said he didn't think they would because horses aren't very eager to go into this kind of bridge.

Mr. Trotter stated that since the last meeting everyone he came in contact with he asked their opinion about the pros and cons of the bridge. He didn't say anything about the location. He said there was not one dissenting vote. Everyone was in favor of it and that it would be an added appeal to the park. He also stated that several people he had talked to had remarked that it would stand out as a special feature.

Mr. Ziegler said it was not necessary to have Council's approval for the covered bridge but since the Township would be responsible for the cost of the materials, they became involved. The monies proposed to be used for this project would be taken from the Revenue Sharing Account, in the amount of \$3,400. Mr. Aron jokingly suggested putting up a toll gate.

Mr. Dean made the motion that they accept the covered bridge at the preferred location now called #4 at the approximate vicinity where the map

now shows the equestrian trail.

Mr. Trotter stated he didn't like to second the motion because there were two parts to it. Some people may be in favor of the first part and not the second. Mr. Dean felt it had to be in two parts because depending on where you put it they may not want it.

Mr. Ziegler stated he would like to see that new location before even thinking of making a decision about where it would be placed.

Mrs. Taricani indicated that was her feelings also. Mr. Bailey felt he would like to take another look at the location before making a decision on the location.

Failing to receive a second to his motion, Mr. Dean agreed to rephrase it. It was moved by Mr. Dean that the Council accept the bridge to be built in either location #3 or #4 yet to be decided. Mrs. Taricani seconded this motion and it unanimously carried.

In a discussion that followed, Art Miller informed the Council he had been in Washington during the last week and had stopped in at the DER office. He asked them about Gregg Niemann's application while he was there. They informed him that it had been approved by the Fish Commission but not by DER yet. He also asked them if they were to locate their bridge at the site indicated on Gregg's application whether this would make any difference. He was informed it would not if it was within a few hundred feet from the other site.

Gregg Niemann asked the Council to clarify just exactly where his bridge was to be built.

Mrs. Taricani moved the Council endorse the Boy Scout Bridge at Location #1 as identified on the master plan for Spring Creek Park. Mr. Trotter seconded this motion and it was unanimously carried.

The Chairman asked that Bruce Peterson, or someone from the project, once again indicate to the Council the cost of materials.

In answer to this request, Mr. Peterson presented to Council a "Letter of Intent", which covered the materials to be used; the work to be done and how; and the amount available for the materials from the Township. A copy of the letter is attached. Coordination of this project is to be made with Mr. Ayer and Mr. Williams.

Letterhead

At first it was felt that letterhead was not all that important but after a phone call from someone who wanted to know who to make out a check of a sizeable amount to, it was realized something final should be decided. After some discussion, it was finally decided that the following should be used:

C O L L E G E   T O W N S H I P

1481 East College Avenue  
State College, PA- 16801

Telephone Number:  
814 - 238-3091

NEW BUSINESS

Flagpole and Flag (Houserville Women's Club). The Houserville Women's Club had requested permission to donate a 40' heavy duty flagpole and flag for Spring Creek Park.

Mr. Ayer sent a reply to Mrs. Ben Phelps, of the Houserville Women's Club, indicating he had turned their request over to the Township Manager, Elwood Williams, for a reply. He enclosed a copy of the cost of a flagpole from the Sargent Sowell Co. for their information.

A letter from Mrs. Thyrza White, Representative of Centre Region Parks & Recreation Board was read in which she stated that with the advice of Jim Deeslie, Spring Creek Park Architect, the College Township Park & Recreation Board recommends that the flagpole proposed by the Women's Club for that site

be placed south of the main building (comfort station) in the triangular plot of ground made by the three sidewalks near the water fountain.

After some discussion, it was decided full support of this project is given by the Council in the installation of the flagpole in the Spring Creek Park and an expression of thanks also be given to them for their public concern.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Elwood G. Williams  
Secretary

## COVERED BRIDGE PROPOSAL

As a gesture of service to the community in this bicentennial year, the student chapter of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) in conjunction with the Department of Civil Engineering at Penn State hereby proposes the design, fabrication, and erection of a covered footbridge with a span of thirty-six feet to be located at a downstream site in Spring Creek Park, College Township. The timber bridge, reminiscent of early Pennsylvania covered bridges, has been designed and modeled during the fall term of 1975. Shortly after approval of the structure and its location by the township, fabrication of the main trusses would begin in the structures laboratory in the Civil Engineering Department at the University. Foundation construction would then follow in early spring of 1976 with the field erection of the superstructure later but prior to June graduation.

The student engineers and their advisors agree to furnish the design, fabrication and erection of the bridge. Quality materials will be obtained at the least possible costs. Specifically;

- (1) Seasoned oak (18% maximum moisture content) is available at minimal cost from the Rockview sawmill for use in the main trusses.
- (2) Poplar logs, trucked in from Somerset County and sawed at Rockview are anticipated for the covering.
- (3) Hardware, including bolts, split rings, etc. will require special orders but inquiries indicate reduced prices.

College Township would provide \$3,400 for material costs. A truck and backhoe with operators would be made available for the transportation of truss sections and for foundation excavation. Additional costs borne by the Township would include electrical wiring, if deemed necessary, earth ramps with or without crushed stone toppings, resurfacing and seeding to restore damage during construction, etc.

Voluntary services by others are also sought. A truckcrane and operator will be needed for main truss erection and the services of a stone mason would be very helpful. Several citizens have indicated a willingness to contribute time and talent to the project.

Students Bruce Peterson and George Wozny are officers of ASCE as well as principal designers of the bridge. Faculty advisors for the project include Professor Ralph R. Mazingo on structural design, Dr. Arthur C. Miller, faculty advisor for ASCE, Dr. Gert Aron on hydrologic computations.