

COLLEGEVILLE BOROUGH
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
July 10, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 7PM by Council President Marion McKinney.

ROLL CALL: Council President Marion McKinney, Council Vice-President Terri Stagliano, Council Member Hugh Braun, Council Member Louise Tulio, Council Member Gary Hoffmann, Council Member Cathy Kernan, Mayor Aidsand Wright-Riggins, Solicitor Dan Greaser, Engineer Dave Leh, Police Chief Bart Bucher, Borough Manager Geoff Thompson and Administrative Assistant Suzanne Robertson.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: MOTION to approve the Minutes from the June 5, 2019 meeting by Ms. Stagliano with a second by Ms. Kernan. MOTION carries 6-0

ROTARY CLUB PRESENTATION: Mayor Wright-Riggins introduced Mark & Eileen Million from the Collegeville Rotary.

Mark Million – Immediate Past President of Collegeville Rotary

ROTARY CLUB OF COLLEGEVILLE- WHO WE ARE

The Rotary Club of Collegeville has been at the heart of the Collegeville community since 1949, celebrating its 70th anniversary the year with a mission to serve the local community and beyond. We have been living by the Rotary motto of "Service Beyond Self" ever since then. Rotary International brings together a global network of volunteer leaders who dedicate their time and talent to tackle the world's most pressing humanitarian challenges, combating hunger, improving health and sanitation, providing education and job training, promoting peace, and eradicating polio.

SUMMARY OF PRESENTATION:

The Borough of Collegeville will commemorate its 125th anniversary in 2021. Unlike most of the boroughs and townships in this area, Collegeville does not have an "official" corporate shield / logo for community presentations and communications. The lack of such a logo / shield diminishes Collegeville's communications with prospective businesses and renders the community less cohesive and identifiable. Adding to such a shield to the municipal hall and at gateways to the borough fosters identity, pride, and community Esprit de corps.

With a project budget of currently \$ 2,500, Rotary seeks to partner with the Collegeville Borough to develop a new corporate shield, logo or seal. Through a contest, perhaps related to Ursinus College and Perkiomen Valley area Schools, students would submit design proposals to Rotary and the Borough in a competitive process. The current budget includes prize money for the contest as well as the cost of creating the logo/ seal from the winning design. The Historical Society of Trappe, Collegeville and Perkiomen Valley, after researching historical records has found no official Collegeville shield. The Historical Society endorses the project concept and is exploring Ways to honor all project participants. Upon approval, Collegeville Rotarian and Mayor Aidsand Wright-Riggins will volunteer efforts and revenue to work with businesses and other organizations to make this a community wide endeavor. The Rotary grant is intended to enhance community and economic development in Collegeville.

PROPOSED TIMELINE:

July 10: Present plan to Collegeville Borough Administration
August 1: Seek approval from Collegeville Borough

Sept 1: Roll out contest to Ursinus College and PV Rotary Club
Jan 1: Collegeville Rotary selects top 5 designs to present to Collegeville Borough
March 1: Collegeville Borough selects winning design
May 1: Seal / logo created

Mr. Braun suggested that the contest only be for students of PV and Ursinus that have permanent addresses in Collegeville Borough. Ms. Stagliano agreed. Ms. Tulio noted that students at Holy Cross Regional Catholic School were not mentioned. She also suggested it be open to all residents of the Borough, not just students. Ms. McKinney said she would like Council to see ALL the submissions, not just the top 5 as suggested by Mr. Million. She thinks it would be better since we could then take aspects from several entries. Mr. Million said he is open to any way we want to structure the contest. Ms. Tulio suggested the final 5 go on the website for a resident vote. The Mayor said he likes the educational aspect for the students to research the Borough and see their interpretations of our history. Ms. Kernan added that the CEDC had done something similar back in 2012. They ended up having trouble because nothing useful came of it. She suggested the prize is not mentioned and that there is wording that states that prizes may not be awarded. Mr. Million said he will take this to the next Rotary meeting (every Wednesday at Wismer Hall) and come to our next meeting to discuss the plan.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Budget & Finance: Mr. Thompson asked for a motion to approve checks #3696-3749 and the Treasurer's Report. **MOTION** by Ms. Stagliano with a second by Mr. Braun. **MOTION** carries 6-0

Business Development: Ms. Kernan gave the following report:

OLD BUSINESS

Rather than Commonwealth House, Steel City is now looking into the option of opening their coffeehouse/brewpub in Collegeville in the former Ursinus twin Victorians at 424-426 E. Main St. near Sabre's Jewelry. Patrons would park behind the buildings.

In July, Kelly Bernardyn, Kathy Costello, Deb Snowden, Valarie Beckius and Cathy Kernan visited Collegeville Borough businesses, and are currently adding the new businesses into the Excel Borough Business Contact list that Robert Botti created. Once we have a complete listing of borough businesses, we will publish it on websites and encourage residents to patronize local businesses for services and products.

Kathy Costello has compiled basic information on empty commercial spaces and buildings in the Borough; BDC members will be obtaining comprehensive information about each space, along with the contact information for the commercial realtors actively marketing the spaces. The completed documentation will provide information to help recruit developers and potential businesses.

NEW BUSINESS

Main St. building and lot owner Vince Raffeo attended the BDC meeting with his lawyer David Kaplan and discussed the benefits and challenges of shared parking with the Committee.

Update on Collegeville Shopping Center--Brixmor is creating two or three small shops to the right of Kimberton Whole Foods. They are about to sign a lease with Lash Lounge and will still have approximately 3,000 SF there left to lease. Also, they will have some space in the back of the shopping center (9,000 SF) that could be good for an office or destination retail (Escape Room/Ax Throwing etc.). Josh Brawer requests that any BDC members with ideas for tenants to please contact him.

The Tait residence at 482 E. Main St. next to Marzella's Pizza will be available as another commercial Main Street Property in addition to the five Ursinus-owned buildings.

One of the BDC's biggest challenges in developing Collegeville's Main St. is to locate sufficient parking. Steve conducted an audit of the existing and potential parking spaces behind the buildings in the 400 block of E. Main St., and the BDC is looking into the possibility of shared parking with existing lot owners.

Bart has confirmed that on-street parking is available on both sides of Main St. between 4th and 5th Aves., with the usual restrictions (driveways, proximity to fire hydrants and street corners). Geoff is looking into the cost of striping the parking spots. Any expenditure would need to be approved by Borough Council.

The BDC and Steve Barth discussed the state of the sidewalks on Main St. Steve pointed out that the lack of, or damage to, curbing is contributing to the erosion of our Main Street sidewalks when storm water rushes over them. So the repair of sidewalks and curbing replacement should be planned concurrently.

Both the borough and Ursinus College are seeking sidewalk related grants. The Borough Manager is currently pursuing a grant that will replace sidewalks in the block connected to Borough Hall. And Ursinus is looking into grants to connect the college with the Perkiomen Trail.

Ursinus College is now looking into promoting Commonwealth House at 500 E. Main St. across from Marzella's Pizza as a possible space for expansion and relocation of the [Ursinus U-Imagine Entrepreneurship Center](#). This space could act as a small business incubator and work to attract entrepreneurs from the area.

The Committee members were sent an article "Revitalizing Suburban Downtown Retail Districts" <https://www.dvrpc.org/reports/13070.pdf> which analyzes the elements of 71 older suburban retail districts in Montgomery and other nearby counties which helped to make them successful.

Eric Jarrell, Section Chief for Community Planning and David Zellers, Director of Commerce for Montgomery County, will be speaking at an upcoming BDC meeting concerning a Main St. commercial overlay, design standards, a comprehensive plan for Collegeville, and other services that they can provide for us.

Ursinus President Brock Blomberg briefly stopped by the Borough Hall on his way from another meeting and thanked the BDC members for their continued work on Collegeville's Main St.

ANY OTHER DISCUSSION and ADJOURN

The BDC meetings are open to all and meet on the fourth Monday of every month except December. The next BDC meeting is Monday, July 22 at 7 p.m. at Collegeville Borough Hall.

Communications: No Report

Community Engagement & Service: No Report. Ms. McKinney stated, going forward, that Mr. Hoffmann will be taking over this committee.

CPVRPC: Ms. Kernen passed a pamphlet from the Montgomery County Planning Commission that outlines their plans to make Montgomery County more sustainable.

CTMA & Public Works: No Report.

LPVRS: Ms. Stagliano said they had no quorum for this last meeting, but they will meet again in 2 weeks.

The tree clearing at the Chestnut Street extension started. They will be clearing about 1000 trees towards Yerkes Rd. The project is set to take 18 months to 2 years.

Parks: Ms. Stagliano said that River of Dreams (a Billy Joel tribute band) will play tomorrow night at Collegeville Park starting at 7PM weather permitting. She thanked Mr. Gehringer again for the beautiful dugouts at the park! She appreciates his efforts and follow through on a promise he made to get it done this season. She also noted she will not be at the August Meeting.

Personnel: No Report

Planning Commission: Mr. Leh said they will meet next Thursday to review the parking lot extension at 341 E Main St

Public Safety: Mr. Braun said there is nothing new to report. They spent the last meeting mostly getting Mr. Hoffmann caught up with how the committee works and what they focus on.

Streets, Roads & Lighting: No Report

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

Engineer: Mr. Leh said the paving project is finished but he has not received the bill yet. 2018 CDBG Project preconstruction meeting was held last month. The work is tentatively scheduled for early August. A revised land development plan has been submitted for the 339-341 W Main St which proposes a small parking expansion at the rear of the site. The plan is currently under review and tentatively scheduled to be considered by the Planning Commission at their July 18th meeting.

Solicitor: Mr. Greaser discussed the sale of the vacant lot at Chestnut & 5th Ave. The parcel is owned by the Borough. It was advertised and we received a bid for \$30K which was the minimum we would accept. Their office also worked on an Ordinance for Public Works properties to transfer ownership to Collegeville Borough and Trappe Boroughs.

Manager/Zoning Officer: Mr. Thompson made note of the many trees that went down during the storm on July 5. He said that Public Works did a great job of clearing the trees from the park and that Eagleville fence came out quickly to replace part of the fence that was down. He also thanked the Fire Company.

Police: Chief Bucher requested approval for a road closing permit for the Car Show on August 11, 2019. **MOTION** by Ms. Tulio, with a second by Ms. Kernen. **MOTION** carries 6-0

Collegeville Fire Company: Mr. Penuel said they had 27 calls for the month of June, not including the 6 alone for the night of the July 5th storm. There were 405 man hours for the month. Ms. Stagliano asked if they had been advised from the Weather Service about the line of the storm. Mr. Penuel said they had not. He said the wind changed directions so many times during the storm. Ms. Stagliano thanked the Police, Fire, Public Works and Mr. Thompson for their work that night.

Trappe Ambulance: No Report

Mayor: Mayor Wright- Riggins said he was contacted by Senator Joe Webster's office to attend a meeting on July 24th at 2PM regarding revitalization in the County from Norristown to Collegeville. He does not

know the location of the meeting, but will let Council know. He would like anyone from Council that is free to attend with him.

MOTION to approve Committee and Administrative Reports by Mr. Braun with a second by Ms. Kernan.
MOTION carries 6-0

PUBLIC DISCUSSION (*Items not on the agenda*)

Robert Botti, 713 Clahor Ave: Mr. Botti thinks the seal is great idea, but thinks we should hire a professional to do it. He does not feel we should leave it to amateurs.

Gene Legendre, 90 W 1st Ave: Mr. Legendre directed his comments to Ms. Stagliano. He is concerned with the sewer project and the equipment that is being stored at and doing damage to his street. He said a similar project took place about 10 years ago and the water flow on the street has never been right since. He said 1st Ave is a private road, which means the residents are responsible for paving and maintaining it. These trucks are doing damage. Ms. Stagliano assured him that she will be on top of the contractor to monitor any damage or dirt left behind. Mr. Legendre also noted that the trash and recycling trucks have not been able to get down the street. Mr. Thompson will contact Allen Myers about making sure they leave room for trash trucks to get in.

Steve Rush 455 Chestnut St: Mr. Rush asked for an update about Steel City as the new proposed location backs up to his property. He has concerns about noise, dumpsters, drunks etc. Ms. Kernan said they have a lot of work to do to get approvals, but that they hope to open in January. She said he and other neighbors that surround the site will be contacted throughout the approval process. Ms. Tulio asked if they were buying the building from Ursinus or leasing. Ms. Kernan said they would be leasing. Ms. McKinney asked if the college will pay taxes on the business. Ms. Kernan said they would.

John Doman 260 Carmen Dr.: Mr. Doman said that Steel City has had 10 violations in Chester County since they opened. Ms. Kernan asked what kind of violations. Mr. Doman said they are on the health website for Chester County.

ACTION ITEMS:

Consideration of the Bids for the 8th Avenue Property: **MOTION** to approve the bid from Milliken LLC for \$30K by Ms. Stagliano, with a second by Mr. Braun **MOTION** carries 6-0

Consideration of Ord. No. 596, Public Works Property Conveyance: Mr. Greaser explained that the wells are being conveyed to both names. (Collegeville and Trappe Boroughs). **MOTION** to approve Ord No. 596 by Ms. Stagliano with a second by Mr. Hoffmann **MOTION** carries 6-0

OTHER BUSINESS

Discussion of Main St. Parking between 4th & 5th Avenues: Mr. Thompson wanted to address the lack of parking lines on Main St looking forward to Steel City and other businesses coming to Main St. Chief Bucher said that there is parking between Glenwood and Clamer, but it isn't used much because there are no businesses in the area. People cannot park there between 1AM – 6AM. If Council wants to mark the lines, that would have to be approved by PennDOT. Ms. Stagliano asked if Mr. Thompson was looking for approval for Gilmore to study the area and devise a plan for the parking spots. Mr. Leh said that they did something similar in Schwenksville, and that it cost about \$20K. Mr. Hoffmann asked if instead for

marking where people CAN park, would it be more reasonable to paint the curbs where they CAN'T park. Mr. Leh said that that would be more economical. Ms. Kernan thought this may be a better option since Main St. is due to be repaved sometime soon. She would hate to pay for lines and have them covered by repaving. The Mayor asked if bike lanes were a possibility. Chief Bucher said the road is too narrow at points to allow for bike lanes. Everyone agreed more discussion needs to take place.

The Mayor said that since several Council members will not be here in August, he will ask Mr. Million (Rotary) to come back in September.

Ms. Tulio said she will not be at the August meeting. The Mayor said he will also miss it.

Ms. Kernan noted Collegeville events coming up:

July 11, 7 p.m. Collegeville Borough Concerts in the Park, corner of Park and West 3rd Aves., "River of Dreams." Bring a picnic dinner and chairs or a blanket.

July 14, 5 to 8 p.m. Dinner on Main, Trappe Main Street, Trappe Historical Society

July 18, 7 to 9 p.m.—Big Talent in Collegeville: Live Music Concert of local bands in conjunction with Music Depot at Community Park. Enjoy a showcase of local teen and young adult musicians—students and associates of The Music Depot—playing rock and singer / songwriter favorites. Eight bands, a drumline, and two soloists. Bring your lawn chairs and your teens. CEDC

July 20, Noon to 10 p.m. **Ursinus College Moon Party!** The Berman Museum of Art celebrates the 50th anniversary of the Apollo 11 with its new Science Fiction exhibition, complete with a crashed spaceship on the campus front lawn. Enjoy food trucks, face painting, and family-friendly activities with Ursinus faculty, hands-on fun with a NASA solar system ambassador and attempt to call the International Space Station with the Education Alliance for Amateur Radio (EAAR). About 8:30 p.m. enjoy the double feature: A Trip to the Moon (silent, 1902, 12 minutes) by Georges Melies, and Martin Scorsese's Hugo (PG, 2011, 2 hr. 9 min.) on the campus front lawn. Ursinus College

July 26, Movie on the Lawn at Ursinus College, "Mary Poppins Returns." Music and food trucks. Bring blankets or chairs. Movie starts about 8:30 p.m. Rain (the movie moves indoors) or Shine. CEDC and Ursinus College.

Aug. 11, Fire Company's Annual Car Show, 9 to 3 p.m., Collegeville Main St. from Third to Ninth Aves. Rain or Shine. Collegeville Fire Co.

Aug. 16, Movie on the Lawn at Ursinus College "How to Train Your Dragon 3: The Hidden World." Music and food trucks. Bring blankets or chairs. Movie starts about 8:30 p.m. Rain (the movie moves indoors) or Shine. CEDC and Ursinus College

Week of August 18, 2019—Collegeville Restaurant Week. CEDC

Sept. 1, Ursinus College Community Festival in honor of the College's Sesquicentennial – 150 Fest. Ursinus College.

September 7, Collegeville Colossal Yard Sale, 9 a.m. to Noon, Waterworks Park, 220 W. First Ave. Trappe. Close to 100 vendors on paved, tree-line trails. Rain date Sept. 21. CEDC

Sept. 14, St. Eleanor's Church Fall Festival "St. Eleanor Community Festival - Free to all!"

Sept. 14, Trappe Community Day – Rain date is September 28. Waterworks Park, 220 W. First Ave., Trappe. Time TBD.

Sept. 15, 7PM. Collegeville Borough Concerts in Community Park, corner of Park and West 3rd Aves., featuring “Brass Pocket.” Bring a picnic dinner and chairs or a blanket.

September 21, Tall Trees Music and Art Fest, www.talltreesfest.com
Noon to dark, 110 Tyson Mill Rd., Collegeville. Sponsored by State Rep. Joe Webster

September 28, St. Luke’s Church Craft and Food Fair

October 6, Collegeville Fire Company’s 8th Annual Hero Run

2nd Week of October, Collegeville Business Expo at Ursinus College. This Expo provides a venue for local businesses to meet Ursinus faculty, staff and students and promote their businesses. CEDC and Ursinus College

October 10, Tavern Night party at Dewees Tavern. Promotes Historic Trappe.

TBD late October-November, Three more Dinner & Show promotions with Ursinus College. Partnership of CEDC and the College

Oct. 25, Diwali Party at Shagun Indian Restaurant. Organized by the CEDC, sponsored by Shagun Restaurant for the community.

October 30, Collegeville Rotary Club’s annual Halloween Parade

October 19 or 26, Craft Fair at Augustus Lutheran Church

November 16, Collegeville Rotary Club’s Turkey Trot

Nov. 22 Keystone Grange, Annual Farm City dinner

Dec. 4, 6:30 pm--Trappe Borough Tree Lighting at Speaker’s House

Dec. 7, Collegeville Tree Lighting and Visit from Santa. Organized by the CEDC; sponsored by DaVinci’s Pub.

Dec. 7 & 8, Candlelight Tours at the Muhlenberg House. Sponsored by Historic Trappe.

Dec. 14, Christmas Concert at Augustus Lutheran Church.

MEETING ADJOURNED 8:04PM

Respectfully Submitted,
Geoffrey Thompson, Secretary

