

# Easton League Of Women Voters Lists Pros, Cons Of Boat Channel

The Easton Area League of Women Voters today issued a list of advantages and disadvantages which would result, in its view, from the proposed small boating channel in the Delaware River in the area.

Eight disadvantages were listed as against only five advantages. The league reported that it has studied water quality and the development of water resources for long-range planning and offered its findings to the public.

The U. S. Army Corps of Engineers has agreed to do a feasibility study of a proposed four-foot channel from a point 2 1/2 miles north of the confluence of the Delaware and Lehigh rivers to a point 5 miles south of the confluence.

Only yesterday, City Councilman Jay R. Snyder suggested that the study be confined to the section between the Easton-Phillipsburg toll bridge and a point north of Carpentersville. His idea would prevent the channel from passing Eddyside and the city water plant.

Disadvantages of the 7 1/2-mile channel listed by the league were:

Encouragement of 500 speed boats in the area of the water works would add a mixture of oil and gas, increasing costs of water purification and decreasing the water quality.

Contamination of the water would impair the recreational value of Eddyside beach and speed boating would churn the water, making swimming difficult and possibly endangering lives if a boat went out of control.

Constant policing to enforce Coast Guard rules would be required.

Altering the river for boating would hamper recreational features and destroy its natural beauty.

A marina and related buildings would be in the flood plain zone. The Army has warned that dams planned for the Delaware will not eliminate flooding but will lower flood levels.

The Tocks Island Dam will make the Delaware's level more consistent but the water will be consistently lower. Will a four-foot channel be sufficient for tomorrow's boaters? the league asked.

Will boaters be content with seven miles or will this create

a demand for more the league asked.

Final water purification depends on biological action in the river but pollutants such as oil and gas and elimination of rapids would decrease the self-purifying actions.

Listed as advantages were: An estimated 500 boaters attracted to the area would aid business.

The channel would add to the pleasure of the many boaters already using the river and elimination of rapids would add to their safety.

The channel would add recreational features to the area and recreational facilities "at their doorstep" are desirable for area residents.

The Delaware is subject to Coast Guard regulations banning high-speed boating near fishermen and canoeists and within 100 feet of swimming beaches.

The river would be lowered only six inches.

The league noted that the \$150,000 channel would be financed equally from local and federal funds. Maintenance would be a local cost, as would costs of a marina, the league said. It urged everyone to give his view on the subject to government officials.

Mayor George S. Smith said yesterday that the Army engineers want to meet with the city council soon to discuss the project.

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