

Kutztown Environmental Advisory Commission Minutes

Monday May 1, 2023

In-person meeting at Kutztown Borough Hall: EAC Members: Todd Underwood (Chair), Keith Leinbach (Air and Water Quality), Lisa Ladd-Kidder (Borough Council Liaison), Randall Wert.

The meeting was called to order by Todd Underwood at 7:01 pm.

- Minutes from April 2023 meeting were approved with two minor corrections that Todd will pass along to Kathy.
- Announcements:
 - Todd reported on the Earth Day Event at K.U.
 - Todd presented options for plaques with name plates for Environmental Stewardship award recipients. There was general agreement on the choice of plaque.
 - Todd informed us of an upcoming (May 9th) talk by Dr. Doug Tallamy at First Presbyterian Church in Allentown and plans to post it on the Facebook page.
- Public Comment
- New Business
- Subcommittee Reports
- Community Education
- Water and Air Quality
 - Keith is still attempting to obtain a copy of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. It is not yet clear whether the PA DEP will send the permit or whether it needs to be retrieved from Harrisburg.
 - Lisa referred to the e-mail she had recently sent to all of us about the use of herbicides (crabgrass treatment) on the playing fields at the park. She is asking for us to express opinions on the human safety aspects of these herbicides.
 - Lisa raised the question of how Deka's Cable and Wire plant on Willow Street is handling lead. Todd recalled an earlier discussion of lead in the borough, which revealed that a relatively small amount of lead is being used at this Deka plant.
 - Lisa has found that there is a lack of borough regulations for the storage and handling of hazardous materials. This is especially concerning because of the warehouses that are coming to the area. It was generally agreed

that first responders should at least have information available on the presence of hazardous materials. This is required by the state's Right-to-Know Act.

- Recycling and Trash
 - Keith found that the recycling "app" is not even an app, but a 2022 electronics recycling schedule posted on the Kutztown Community Partnership (KCP) site.
- Parks and Trails -Todd Underwood (chair)
 - The Boy Scouts were supposed to have cleaned up trash on the previous day (April 30th), but weather might have interfered with this.
 - A total of 125 trees and shrubs were successfully planted along the Saucony Trail. Invasive shrubs were also removed.
 - There are 650 wildflowers waiting to be planted during the month ahead. Todd is hoping to involve elementary students in this effort.
 - Todd is having increasing difficulty in finding an intern willing to carry out all the tasks that have been associated with the EAC internship in the past. He is working with Brian to redefine the role of the intern in hopes of making it easier to find someone.

Meeting ended at 8:01 pm