Kutztown Environmental Advisory Commission Minutes

Monday April 4, 2022

In-person meeting at Kutztown Borough Hall: EAC Members: Todd Underwood, Kathy Kelly, Keith Leinbach

Meeting was called to order by Todd Underwood at 7:004pm.

Minutes from the March 2022 were approved.

New Business

1. Budget
   a. No update on the application for a Grant for the Main Street Park Kiosks and QR codes for the tree identification. A current map of trees is to be developed.

2. Team Members
   a. No activity.

3. Annual Report 2021
   a. The report was reviewed and accepted at the February Council meeting.

4. Subcommittee Reports
   a. Community Education
      • A reminder about the Earth Day event at the Berks Ag Center April 22-23, 2022. Friday April 22 is the pickup for pre-ordered plants as well as information on seeding native plants. The following day, Saturday, April 23rd from 11am-3pm there will be the first annual Conservation Celebration. This event will also include informational booths and activities, as well as food trucks and live music. Some of the following include Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, Smokey the Bear, and Penn State Master Watershed Stewards and Gardeners. Both events are meant to highlight conservation and environmental efforts in Berks County and beyond.
   b. Parks and Trail
      • Per Brian Bailey, the new bench and trash can for the White Oak Pollinator Garden have arrived and are scheduled for spring installation.
   c. Water and Air Quality
      • No update on obtaining the data. Keith suggested that for 2023, he will create a spreadsheet for that will allow for easy of data entry and perform this task as they receive receipts.
      • No update concerning the Foundry’s reactivation plan.
      • We did a brief review of the water rate comparison among Kutztown, Fleetwood and Topton. Further discussion will occur at the May 2022 meeting.
      • Kathy will make a request to Lisa to contact DEP for the exact location of well testing site 6a.
   d. Recycling and Trash
      • The Math Department at KU is working with Public Works to improve all overall efficiency. No update.
• Kathy to talk with Sandy Green about the status of the trash/recycle letter written and submitted several months ago.
• Lisa brought up looking into reducing and/or eliminating all the junk mail and advertising flyers distributed weekly. Cheyenne will look into finding out ways for individuals to opt out. No update.

e. Parks and Trails - Todd Underwood (chair)
• A Saucony Creek and Trail Cleanup occurred on March 26th. 18 residents including students from Kutztown High School, Kutztown University and the KEAC cleaned up trash along Constitution Drive. The volunteers filled 10 contractor size bags.
• Lisa mentioned that the Borough had had a grant for individual citizens to subsidize tree planting on their property. The money per property was $50-$75 and she thought the total pool was $3000. No update.
• Kathy will check with her neighbors on cleaning up the White Oak pollinator garden during April.
• Todd reported that there are areas along the creek that are roped off for restoration, hoping that people fishing along the creek, stay out of the roped off area.
• Todd reported that the KU Botany Club will assist with the cleanup at North Park.

Meeting ended at 7:52 pm