

# Kutztown Environmental Advisory Commission Minutes

Monday April 6, 2026

In-person meeting at Kutztown Borough Hall: EAC Members: Todd Underwood (Meeting Chair), Lisa Ladd-Kidder (L-K) (Borough Council Liaison), Lisa Foreback (F), Mike Downing, Tommy Lazorik (KU student rep). Kathy Kelly (Secretary), and Randy Wert by Zoom.

Public Guests: Fred Engelhardt and Jeff Dietrich (Borough Residents), Jason Stauffer, Lions Club

- 7:01 pm, Mike moved to approve the minutes from the March 2026 meeting with two minor edits, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Randy.
- Announcements: None.
- Public Comment: None.
- New Business: Lisa L-K wrote a draft of a letter to the Borough pertaining to the “Inclusion of KEAC in Borough Decision Making.” Often times, items are addressed to the Borough which inherently include complex environmental issues influencing the health and safety of our residents/visitors as well as the functioning of the Borough itself. This letter is intended to be a starting point in laying out a plan to have these issues addressed by KEAC, who will then study, evaluate and present its recommendations to the Borough Council. The team will pursue further discussion at the May meeting.
- Subcommittee Reports
  - A. Community Education:
    - Mike is targeting April to publish the first in a series of short articles (about 300 words) relevant to the residents of Kutztown. Tommy to assist concerning input for KU projects. Lisa L-K suggested a review of the 2025 Annual Report for topics that KEAC has worked on.
    - PFAS: Kathy reported on a link that Todd supplied for an article published by Agilent, a company well known for its state-of-the-art laboratory test equipment. The article reported on its latest test equipment which can test for PFAS and other related chemicals in our environment.
    - KEAC website/Facebook pages have been updated.
  - B. Water and Air Quality.
    - Extensive discussion on the draft ordinance presented by Ostergaard Acoustical Associates, an organization hired by the Borough to help develop a viable noise ordinance. It was determined that each KEAC member would review the document and prepare comments for review at the May meeting.
  - C. Recycling and Trash
    - No update.
  - D. Parks and Trails -Todd Underwood (chair)
    - Jason Stauffer, representing the Lion’s Club of Kutztown, has offered that the organization would like to work on clean-up of the 737/222 ramps. Proposed date is 4/18/26 with a rain date of 4/25/26/ Todd will collaborate with them to ensure proper signage, tools, and PPE. In addition to this cleanup effort, they will also help with grant writing for the procurement of trees and subsequent planting.

- The Optimist Club of Kutztown has volunteered to clean up both the Welcome and White Oak Gardens in preparation for the spring and summer, including adding new mulch.
- Tree planting at North park is scheduled for April. Public Works will back this up moneywise as Giant opted not to fund the grant. KU Environmental Biology students will supply the muscle to plant the trees and shrubs.
- Todd reported that other organizations such as Berk's Nature and the Lions Club will help with future grants.
- Trash pickup scheduled for March 29 with KU students. Also, another with middle school, and high school students in April.
- The Boy Scout bridge replacement project is moving forward. The bridge closest to the pool along the Saucony Trail will be replaced. The railing on the bridge by Turkey Hill will be repaired.
- Todd reported that he did the second seeding of the new meadow. The pool meadow will need to be mowed in the next few months.
- Todd repaired damaged bird boxes and the new boxes will be installed in April.
- The ATV's were back and cruising around North Park. Todd happened to be there at the time. Police were notified and confronted the family who stated that they were unaware that they were in violation. They agreed to not ride their ATV's at North Park in the future.
- The deer populations at both Hawk Mountain and North Park are increasing as verified by cameras. A lot of coordination will need to be worked out including input by Game and Fish if there is to be a culling of the herd in the fall.

Motion to adjourn by Todd at 08:13 pm, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Randy.