Kutztown Environmental Advisory Commission Minutes

Monday August 1, 2022

In-person meeting at Kutztown Borough Hall: EAC Members: Cheyenne Friscia, Kathy Kelly, and Todd Underwood (Chair). Borough Council Liaison: Lisa Ladd-Kidder

Meeting was called to order by Todd Underwood at 7:05 pm.

Minutes from the July 2022 were approved.

New Business

1. Subcommittee Reports
   a. Community Education
      • Kathy gave a brief overview on PFAS (Polyfluoroalkyl substances) found in the Emmaus water supply as well as information from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Kathy to put together a one paragraph summary including links to three references concerning this issue. Upon approval by the team, Todd will submit to be posted on the Borough website and Facebook page to bring awareness to our citizens of the potential dangers of these substances.
   b. Water and Air Quality
      • The frequency of testing the Borough wells for PCE’s has officially been changed from once every three years to once per year. A test was recently performed with negative results—good news!!
      • Kathy showed a graph of the PCE levels in well # 6A which has shown a very strong increase over time (2016 to present). However, the levels in the discharge pipe to the creek are significantly lower than the monitoring well test values and have remained relatively flat over the same time period, hinting that NESL is doing some form of abatement. Lisa to follow up to see if air-stripping is being performed by NESL and if so, what type of air filtration or scrubbing is being utilized.
      • No update on greenhouse gas data and inventory.
   c. Recycling and Trash
      • No decision has yet been made on the trash and recycle pickup schedule for 2023. Lisa indicated that it is on the agenda for Tuesday’s meeting (8/2/2022).
   d. Parks and Trails -Todd Underwood (chair)
      • The grant for the restoration project has been approved. The total for the grant is $4,000 with a matching $2,000 from the Borough. It is estimated that this will provide approximately 200 trees. The fall
cleanup and planting is tentatively scheduled for 10/22-23/2022 which will utilize random community volunteers. The spring cleanup and planting will involve KU volunteer students.

- Update on North Park Bridge: Their will not be a new bridge built from the ground up. The “rent a bridge” (as it is dubbed) will be the option chosen. The bridge will span the creek, 18 feet wide with one vehicle/one direction at a time. The cost is estimated around $1 million and will be shared by the Borough, Maxatawney Township and Berks County. The theme is safety, function, and durability.

- Todd has suggested that the Borough sponsor an archery only Doe hunt while North Park is closed. The deer are ravaging the vegetation and the population has really grown. Todd said that Hawk Mountain has sponsored this periodically. Kathy to research.

- White Oak Pollinator Garden: Many thanks to the Underwood family for doing a stellar job of cleanup at the garden. It is now ready for mulch. Todd will contact Public Works to have the mulch delivered. The new bench install is still on the Public Works to do list.

e. Miscellaneous
   Lisa reported that work is still slated to begin in late summer or early fall on Vine Lane in the alley accessing the old Bieber Bus Terminal.

Meeting ended at 8:00 pm