

## Kutztown Environmental Advisory Commission Minutes

Monday August 7, 2023

In-person meeting at Kutztown Borough Hall: EAC Members: Todd Underwood (Chair), Cheyenne Friscia (KU student rep) Kathy Kelly (Secretary) via phone, Lisa Ladd-Kidder (Borough Council Liaison)

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

1. Cheyenne moved to approve the minutes from July 2023 meeting and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kathy.
2. Announcements
3. Public Comment
4. New Business
  - Lisa wrote up a short memorial statement from the EAC to the borough council in honor of Keith Leinbach so that his passing and contributions to the borough would be recognized. Approved by all. A memorial statement from the EAC will also be submitted to *The Reading Eagle* and *The Northern Berks Patriot*.
  - Constantine Penzone submitted his application to join the EAC. All members reviewed and his inclusion was unanimous. The application will next go to Council for review at the August 15<sup>th</sup> meeting. Todd to extend an invitation for him to attend the meeting.
5. Subcommittee Reports
  - a. Community Education
    - The presentation of the Environmental Stewardship Award will take place at the Borough council meeting on August 15<sup>th</sup>. Todd will prepare a brief statement for the presentation. He will also have a photographer present as well as submit the award letter written by Lisa and Kathy to Lisa Mitchell for publication in *The Northern Berks Patriot*.
    - Possibility of developing a Junior Ranger/Environmentalist type program. Will discuss in September.
    - Cheyenne sent out a sample of the soon to be monthly native plant information to be posted on the KEAC website/Facebook page where each month a new native plant will be featured along with a photo of the pollinators. All approved the sample. It will be posted within the week as well as an additional one for August.
  - b. Water and Air Quality
    - New data on the six-month PCE testing of Monitoring Well 6a at the NESL quarry is past due. Lisa has been in contact with NESL requesting the data. We will review new data at the September meeting.
    - The spreadsheet project for the data collection process for greenhouse gas data and inventory by the Borough is currently on hold.

- Lisa reported that PFAS testing of the Borough's water has commenced.
  - Lisa submitted the letter regarding the East Penn Manufacturing (EPM) air permit renewal request. It was reviewed and approved by Council at the July 18<sup>th</sup> meeting. This keeps the Borough within the 30-day review period. Note: This facility is the wire and cable division.
- c. Recycling and Trash
- KK to continue to research a local company that will recycle glass as a possible alternative to paying the current vendor. Supply the information to Lisa.
- d. Parks and Trails -Todd Underwood (chair)
- As part of the grant, a sign will be developed and placed along the trail by the elementary school explaining the restoration project.
  - Todd is trying to find out the status of the Berks County Grant Proposal submitted in February. The cost is \$2400 for new trees and tubes. Todd to ask the Borough to cover the costs if the grant falls through. The trees (80) must be ordered now for planting in October. There will be no money exchanged until October.
  - Spring 2024 planting (April) along the creek at North Park, \$1400 plus delivery for 50 trees. Todd to ask Giant for the money. Planting to be done by KU students.
  - Public Works has still not moved forward on resurfacing the Saucony Trail.
  - Here is the link for the Penn State Extension Native Tree and Shrub Sale [Master Watershed Steward Native Tree and Shrub Sale \(psu.edu\)](https://psu.edu/master-watershed-steward-native-tree-and-shrub-sale)

Motion to adjourn by Todd at 7:50 pm, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kathy.