

Kutztown Environmental Advisory Commission Minutes

Monday August 5, 2024

In-person meeting at Kutztown Borough Hall: EAC Members: Todd Underwood (Chair), Kathy Kelly (Secretary) by Zoom, Lisa Ladd-Kidder (Borough Council Liaison), Randy Wert by Zoom, Lisa Foreback (potential new member) as guest.

The meeting was called to order by Todd Underwood at 7:00 pm.

- Randy moved to approve the minutes from the July 2024 meeting and 2nd by Todd.
- Announcements: None.
- Public Comment: None
- Subcommittee Reports
 - A. Community Education
 - The EAC webpage is current.
 - Last month Kathy put together a summary of the Penn State Extension Zoom presentation on Forever Chemicals which will be PFAS paper #4. Kathy contacted Penn State Extension to see if we could post a direct link for the public to utilize. This request was denied so the summary paper will be posted to further educate the public on this important topic.
 - Todd supplied a link detailing information on the danger of Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂) and warehouses contributing to this dangerous source of air pollution. The primary culprit is from vehicle emissions.
 - Native Plant of the month is current through July. Cheyenne to catch up in August.
 - B. Water and Air Quality
 - May/June 2024 PCE data from NESL has been received. KK to update chart and graph for MW6a and discharge pipe. Updated pumping quantities were also received.
 - No update on the potential sale of the three Topton properties.
 - The spreadsheet project for the data collection process for greenhouse gas data and inventory by the Borough is still on hold.
 - Response received from East Penn Manufacturing (EPM) in regard to their Kutztown Wire and Cable (KWC) Manufacturing Facility State Only Operating Permit #06-03063 renewal request. Kutztown Borough responded to the original request in July 2023. The team reviewed the comments and approved. Kathy drafted a letter to DEP stating that East Penn's comments have been reviewed and accepted. This letter was sent to Council. No final word as of August meeting.
 - Lisa reported that the Villas@Maxatawny, project reference BKK-MAX-01, will be presenting to Kutztown Water and Waste Water Committee in August. The proposed location is in a field roughly bounded by College Boulevard, Fairview Avenue, Greenwich Street, and the 222 Kutztown Bypass.
 - C. Recycling and Trash
 - Lisa to follow up with Public Works to determine if the Borough is profitable with glass recycling. The team reviewed the government guidelines for municipality recycling guidelines. All agree that recycling has a positive impact regardless of profitability.

D. Parks and Trails -Todd Underwood (chair)

- Sacony Trail is open, and based on Todd's observation, some people and dogs are on school property. Todd worked with Dr. Courtney of KU's Geography Department to generate a detailed map to be placed at the trail heads showing where you can and can't go. Also, a sign detailing the rules for the trail will be placed at the deck on both ends of the trail. Because of the posting of the rules, the Police Department will support the enforcement.
- Todd suggested that the Borough generate a thank-you letter to Dr. Courtney for generating the trail and area map.
- Todd has submitted a grant to Berk's Country for \$4,500 for the fall tree planting at North Park and the same for the spring planting. The County does not move fast. The trees for Fall must be ordered by the end of July and planted in late October/early November. We need to ask Public Works if they can pay \$1,500 (EAC \$800 out of their budget) to cover the costs upfront until the grant comes through.
- Todd suggests putting a sign at North Park to prevent people from swimming below the waste water effluent pipe.
- Todd reported that the spring planting trees are doing well.
- Todd has been asking Public Works to cut down some invasive trees at North park since 2019. He will follow up again with Brian Bailey.

Motion to adjourn by Todd Underwood at 07:50 pm, 2nd by Kathy.