

## Kutztown Environmental Advisory Commission Minutes

Monday February 3, 2025

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

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

- Todd moved to approve the minutes from the January 2025 meeting. Two minor adjustments requested and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Randy.
- Announcements: Todd reported that Saucony Sam, the Borough's resident Muskrat, did not see his shadow on 2/2/2025. This will be posted on the KEAC Facebook page.
- Public Comment: None
- Subcommittee Reports
  - A. Community Education
    - The KEAC webpage is current.
    - Native Plant of the month is updated through 2024. Cheyenne suggested that we retire this program as it is not getting many views (2 last month). Will discuss at March mtg.
    - Kathy last white paper "A Guide to Addressing PFAS and Drinking Water" has been posted.
    - Cheyenne showed us pamphlet she and another student put together on North Park, including its history and a map. It was suggested to have this laminated and posted at North Park and to develop a similar one of the Saucony Trail area in town. Another suggestion was to have these pamphlets printed and sold for a small fee as a fund raiser or even just to cover the costs so that the information is easily available. She will investigate costs for both and present at the March meeting.
  - B. Water and Air Quality
    - No updates reported.
  - C. Recycling and Trash
    - No updates.
  - D. Parks and Trails -Todd Underwood (chair)
    - Todd relayed a discussion for the establishment of a "meadow" between the Saucony Creek and Kutztown Area School District (KASD). The area would encompass approximately 0.6 – 0.75 acres. This would be accomplished by using environmentally friendly herbicide following all recommended health, safety and environmental guidelines with the Borough mowing until September. KEAC would be responsible for the herbicide and seed purchase (~\$1000) including a cover crop for the winter. Todd will investigate a possible grant via KCP and Giant. This would also be instrumental in removing and preventing the reemergence of invasive vegetation. This will take about 3 years for the meadow to develop
    - Todd showed us examples of stickers for the trail markers. Examples were given for arrows and "Stay on the Trail." Shelia Sacks is helping with the design for these and other generic information stickers. Estimated costs for the stickers are ~\$350.

- The EAC and the Kutztown Area School District (KASD) Facilities Director, Richard Laubenstein, proposed extending the Saucony Trail south from the deck approximately 2800 feet. The KASD School Board Facilities Committee unanimously approved the extension, and it is expected to be approved at the next full School Board meeting. Most of the extension would occur on KASD property. However, there is a section of about 100-150 feet that might go onto Harlan Burkholder's property. The new trail would remain mowed grass, and no trail surface would be created. This extension would bring the total trail length up to approximately one mile each way. Visitors to the Saucony Trail have already been walking this area south of the trail and around the football field. This will be a benefit to borough residents and proper trail marking and signage will help keep people off school property. In addition, the school district would like to revise or obtain a new trail easement agreement for this project. An easement agreement might also be needed with Harlan Burkholder. The estimated cost of extending the trail south is ~\$2850 and includes trail marker posts, stickers, maps, and signs. The EAC has already committed ~\$1000 of our funds to this project as well as developing the maps for free. Thus, the EAC requests your Borough approval of this project and ~\$1850 is requested to complete the project.

Motion to adjourn by Todd Underwood at 08:05 pm, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Randy.