

Kutztown Environmental Advisory Commission Minutes

Monday January 6, 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) by Zoom, 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 December 2024 meeting and 2nd by Randy.
- Announcements: None
- Public Comment: None
- Election of 2025 Officers: Todd nominated by Lisa L-K for Chair, 2nd by Randy, all approved. Kathy nominated by Todd, 2nd by Randy, all approved. Todd nominated Randy as Vice Chair, 2nd by Lisa, all approved.
- Todd to reach out to CJ Penzone to see if he is still interested in being on the KEAC.
- 2024 Annual Report was moved to be approved by Kathy, 2nd by Lisa, all approved. Todd to review one more time then send to Council. Lisa to represent the team at Council review.
- Discussion of New Projects/Goals for 2025: Team agreed to continue focus on the current Subcommittees of Community Education, Air and Water Quality, Recycling/Trash programs and Parks and Trails.
- Subcommittee Reports
 - A. Community Education
 - The KEAC webpage is current.
 - Todd to update Facebook page.
 - Native Plant of the month is currently being brought up to date by Cheyenne.
 - Kathy developed a new white paper, "A Guide to Addressing PFAS and Drinking Water." The paper was approved by all with one minor edit. Todd will have it posted during the month.
 - B. Water and Air Quality
 - No updates on NESL quarry reporting. NESL attended the December Water/Waste Water meeting.
 - Date for Saucony Trail spring cleanup, which usually occurs in March, has not yet been established.
 - C. Recycling and Trash
 - No updates.
 - D. Parks and Trails -Todd Underwood (chair)
 - "Pedestrian Traffic only in the Park" sign is ready and will be installed in the spring.
 - 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 and mowing until September. KEAC would be responsible for the herbicide and seed purchase (\$600 - \$700) including a cover crop for the winter. This

would also be instrumental in removing and preventing the reemergence of invasive vegetation. Todd will develop a timeline for the project.

- Todd will move the establishment of the North Section map forward.
- 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.
- A book is being written by a Bird Watching group in the Lehigh Valley. Todd has been asked to write a chapter on "Bird Watching along the Saucony Trail."
- Todd reported that positive feedback has been received from visitors concerning the new bird feeders at North Park.
- Tree removal will occur in North Park along the road to the restrooms, focusing on dead ash and the invasive Norway maple. Todd is working with Public Works for this to occur sometime this winter.
- A reliable source of water needs to be established for tree watering during dry periods. Lisa F. reported finding a source for a gently used large food grade fork truck ready tank (275-gallon size) at no cost to be set at the site, including a lock to prevent unauthorized use as well as a hose fitting. Todd wants an inquiry into the tank's prior use. Todd to talk with Public Works about setting the tank and the Fire Department to refill as needed (estimated 2 -3 times during the dry season) as there is an access road at the proposed location.
- Next planned planting event of a variety of native trees is planned for April 2025 on the Saucony side of 737.

Motion to adjourn by Todd Underwood at 08:00 pm, 2nd by Kathy.