

## Kutztown Environmental Advisory Commission Minutes

Wednesday January 7, 2026

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

- 7:00 pm, Mike moved to approve the minutes from the December 2025 meeting, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Randy, with minor edits.
- Announcements: None.
- Public Comment: None.
- New Business:
  - Election of Officers for 2026
    - Lise F. nominated Todd for Chairperson, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mike. Unanimous for.
    - Randy to step down as Vice-Chair. Mike was nominated by Randy and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Todd. Unanimous for.
    - Lisa F. nominated Kathy for Secretary, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Todd. Unanimous for.
  - 2025 EAC annual summary: All reviewed the draft written by Mike. Todd to finalize, with minor edits and present to Council.
  - 2025 Final Budget expenses: Todd spent the final \$150 on the birdhouse kits and seed.
  - Discussion of new projects, goals and 2026 budget: The four subcommittees will remain the same. Thus far, the budget allocation of \$1500 will include expenditures of \$625 on trail sign posts and \$175 on posts for the blue bird houses. Mike indicated that there may be some small costs associated with community education flyers.
- Subcommittee Reports
  - A. Community Education:
    - Mike to take the lead on getting KEAC involved in community events and use it as a platform for educating the public on assorted topics such as recycling and water conservation. Suggestions include Earth Day, (April), Kutztown Day (August) and Dinner on Main (date TBD).
    - Mike will look into authoring a white paper on water conservation for everyday use, utilizing PA/DEP resources. Tommy to help with water conservation education at KU.
    - Mike also suggested a white paper explaining the PCE Swale and Cone of Depression and the possible impact on the Borough's wells. This would be a high-level information paper to help the citizens better understand the state of concern for Borough's water supply. Kathy will supply data on testing and trends as requested.
  - B. Water and Air Quality.
    - Lisa L-K sent out a draft of a letter to PA DEP regarding the quarry and PCE testing. No feedback as of this meeting.
  - C. Recycling and Trash
    - Lisa F. is still trying to find out where the Borough's recycle goes once it is picked up.
  - D. Parks and Trails -Todd Underwood (chair)

- There is still evidence of the presence of ATV tracks through the North park and crossing the creek. It was suggested that improved barriers be put in place and also more signage.
- Hand meadow seeding (Rye) is complete but not the wild flower seeds. Need dry soil which may not occur this winter,
- Todd will work on a grant via Kutztown Community Partnership (KCP) in conjunction with Giant to cover the costs of the trees for the planned April tree planting,
- Sacony trail work is continuing to move forward. This will be Todd's primary focus. The School District has requested an updated easement agreement. Lisa L-K will check with Public Works on the status. It is unclear whether this will come out of the KEAC budget or Public Works. Todd will write up a redo of the original solicitation to be reviewed by Public Works and the Borough prior to presentation to the School District.
- There was a brief general discussion on property upkeep, primarily on individual compost piles and untrimmed gardens and shrubs. Many people view untrimmed vegetation as unsightly and a nuisance while others see it has habitats for larvae, insects, birds, and small animals. Kathy will look into how other local municipalities deal with this conflict.
- The Boy Scout and possible Eagle Scout projects have fallen off the map. Lisa F. to check into the status,

Motion to adjourn by Todd at 08:13 pm, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Lisa F.