Kutztown Environmental Advisory Commission Minutes

Wednesday July 6, 2022

In-person meeting at Kutztown Borough Hall: EAC Members: Cheyenne Friscia, Kathy Kelly, Keith Leinbach, and Todd Underwood (Chair). Borough Council Liaison: Lisa Ladd-Kidder

Meeting was called to order by Todd Underwood at 7:03 pm.

Minutes from the June 2022 were approved.

New Business

1. Subcommittee Reports
   a. Community Education
      • Lisa mentioned a problem in Emmaus concerning PFAS (Polyfluoroalkyl substances) found in their water supply. Is this a potential problem for Kutztown? Kathy to research and present at August meeting.
   b. Water and Air Quality
      • Continued with monthly discussion on rising PCE levels in the quarry’s monitoring wells and the discharge water into the Saucony Creek. Todd will write a follow up letter to be reviewed at August meeting and then forward for Borough approval before sending to DEP for follow up plan.
      • The subject of “air stripping” at the quarry was discussed. This is a form of treating wastewater by moving air through water contaminated with volatile contaminates (VOC’s) in a treatment system above ground. The air movement causes the VOCs to evaporate at a faster rate. It potentially improves water quality potentially at the sacrifice of air quality. The quarry was doing this at least up until a few years ago. It is not clear if they still are using this process. Air monitoring needs to be performed at the quarry as this is another potential hazard to the Borough.
   c. Recycling and Trash
      • Discussion continued as to the best course of action concerning trash and recycle pickup. The EAC had come to the same conclusions as the KU Math Department Study as to hiring more employees to keep current service. The next viable option is to have trash and full recycle once per week which is what the EAC recommends as this is standard practice in many communities. Individuals that require more than three
bins of trash to be picked up per week should pay a higher rate or get a dumpster.

- It was noted that citations have been issued for properties that have excessive uncontainerized trash piled up. The biggest offenders are student housing units with multiple apartments.

d. Parks and Trails - Todd Underwood (chair)

- Todd has still not heard a response back on the grant application
- There was brief discussion of the borough’s plans for the North Park bridge. The current bridge cannot be rebuilt as it is totally collapsed. Lisa gave an update on two options. One option is a new bridge which will cost in the millions and take at least a year to complete. The second option is a "rent a bridge" with a much-reduced cost and the option of turning this into a permanent structure. Maxatawney Township and Berks County to share the cost.
- Saucony Trail problem: KASD hired 8 boys to weed whack on school property along the creek and they were very aggressive in their approach. A person or persons, decided to cut their own trail along the creek in the restoration area. Aside from being dangerous, it was also very destructive.
- White Oak Pollinator Garden: It was noted that someone recently mowed the area the week of July 4. Todd is going to trim around the garden itself and Cheyenne will work on cleaning out the foot path in hope of getting mulch laid down. Kathy will work on getting the gutters and sidewalk cleaned up in the next week. The new bench install is on the Public Works to do list.

e. Miscellaneous

Lisa reported that work is slated to begin in late summer or early fall on Vine Lane in the alley accessing the old Bieber Bus Terminal. The road will be resurfaced after the underground tanks from the terminal are checked to insure no leaks. New storm water grates will also be installed.

Meeting ended at 7:51 pm