Kutztown Environmental Advisory Commission Minutes

Monday June 6, 2022

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

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

Minutes from the May 2022 were approved.

New Business

1. Subcommittee Reports
   a. Community Education
      - No report
   b. Water and Air Quality
      - Foundry reactivation permit was approved by the DEP. The DEP agreed to require a higher level of air filtration on some equipment. Details of the DEP’s letter were briefly discussed.
      - Continued with discussion from last month on rising PCE levels in the quarry’s monitoring wells and the discharge water into the Sacony Creek. There was some confusion over the EAC’s letter recommending borough council ask DEP to investigate whether these changes represent movement of the Topton plume of PCEs toward our wells. EAC will slightly revise the letter to now be sent to DEP from borough council based on our recommendation.
      - Lisa Ladd-Kidder has been communicating by email and zoom with a DCNR hydrogeologist for assistance in understanding our aquifer and the potential impacts the quarry’s pumping may have on it.
      - There also was brief discussion about when the quarry’s permit was last renewed. The quarry’s discharge permit was revised in July of 2017. Clarification is needed to check for a renewal date.
   c. Recycling and Trash
      - The Math Department at KU submitted their report on how to improve efficiency of refuse and recycling pickup. Bottom line appears to be that they recommend hiring more employees. A few possible options were suggested in the report – none of them were to keep full recycling for weekly pickup. There was discussion about options for how to keep recycling pickup on a more frequent schedule. EAC recommends exploring an option of a full recycling pickup every week with only once a week trash pickup as most families in other
communities have. Individuals that require more than three bins of trash to be picked up per week should pay a higher rate or get a dumpster. Lisa will seek permission to share the KU report with the EAC.

d. Parks and Trails - Todd Underwood (chair)
   - Todd submitted the matching grant to the Schuylkill Highlands Mini Grant program for restoration work along the Sacony Trail. Grant funds requested were ~$4000.
   - There was brief discussion of the borough’s plans for the North Park bridge.

Meeting ended at 7:45 pm