

Kutztown Environmental Advisory Commission Minutes

Monday June 3, 2024

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

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

- Cheyenne moved to approve the minutes from the May 2024 meeting and 2nd by Todd.
- Announcements: None.
- Public Comment: None
- Subcommittee Reports
 - A. Community Education
 - The EAC webpage is current.
 - Native Plant of the month is awaiting June update.
 - Todd took first grade classes from Kutztown elementary on nature walks along the Saucony trail.
 - B. Water and Air Quality
 - Todd generated a letter to DEP in response to their comments of our letter concerning the inconsistencies of the testing performed by NESL and the PCE levels in Monitoring Well 6a. The team reviewed and approved the letter which was forwarded to Borough Council for final approval. Lisa to follow up with NESL and request May data including Pumping quantities, Monitoring Well 6a level and PCL test results.
 - No update on the potential sale of the three Topton properties.
 - The spreadsheet project for the data collection process for greenhouse gas data and inventory by the Borough is currently on hold.
 - Response received from East Penn Manufacturing (EPM) in regard to their Kutztown Wire and Cable (KWC) Manufacturing Facility State Only Operating Permit #06-03063 renewal request. Kutztown Borough responded to the original request in July 2023. The team reviewed the comments and approved. Kathy drafted a letter to DEP stating that East Penn's comments have been reviewed and accepted. This letter was sent to Council.
 - The Foundry sent a letter concerning air quality permit renewal. However, no actual request has been received as of date of this meeting. Lisa to follow up with the Foundry.
 - There was much discussion around the proposed development called Villas@Maxatawny, project reference BKK-MAX-01. The proposed location is in a field roughly bounded by College Boulevard, Fairview Avenue, Greenwich Street, and the 222 Kutztown Bypass. The team reviewed a letter that Lisa wrote to Chris Paff, the Maxatawny Township Zoning Officer requesting additional information. No response as of June meeting.
 - A request was received from Clifford Hill Sanitation Services to extend the allowable waste per day from 54 to 300 tons per day for their landfill transfer station. There are many concerns surrounding this request, including but not limited to: increased truck

traffic, monitoring of the waste types including radioactive and hazardous wastes, impact on the Saucony creek. The transfer station is about one mile from the Kutztown Borough wells and should be within the well protection zone. Lisa to attend the Maxatawny Township meeting on June 4, 2024

C. Recycling and Trash

- Lisa to follow up with Public Works to determine if the Borough is profitable with glass recycling. It was noted that because the borough is a certain size, we are required to recycle glass. By definition, this size is defined as “Municipalities” (other than a county) with a population of greater than 10,000 people or a population of 5,000 – 10,000 people and a population density of more than 300 people per square mile are required to recycle. Based on the 2020 census, Kutztown has a population of 4,213 people and a population density of 2632.4 per square mile. What is not clear is how the student population of KU fits into this. As of 2022, the student population at KU was 6,233 full time and 1,222 part time.

D. Parks and Trails -Todd Underwood (chair)

- Sacony Trail is open, and based on Todd’s observation, some people and dogs are on school property. This needs to be addressed before the beginning of the Fall 2024 school session. There needs to be some type of police presence to enforce the regulations posted on the signs.
- April tree planting was a huge success and Todd is currently tending to the trees.
- Two interns have been approved and slated to start in mid-June and completion of final back ground checks.
- The \$1600 grant from the Giant has arrived and KCP has been reimbursed.
- Stroud Research Center has been conducting studies of fresh water systems and during the course of a study of Sacony creek, they discovered an invasive snail. It is unknown at this time what, if any, harm it can cause. No update.
- Todd has been asking Public Works to cut down some invasive trees at North park since 2019. He will follow up again with Brian Bailey.

Motion to adjourn by Todd Underwood at 7:40 pm, 2nd by Kathy.