

# Kutztown Environmental Advisory Commission Minutes

Monday March 4, 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), Randy Wert

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

- Cheyenne moved to approve the minutes from the February 2024 meeting and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Randy.
- Announcements: There is a possible new applicant for the EAC. She is an art professor at KU, lives across from Lisa and is very interested in gardening and native plants.
- Public Comment: None
- Old Business
  - 2023 Annual Report reviewed and approved by Council. Lisa stated that the members were very impressed by the volume and quality of work performed in 2023.
- Subcommittee Reports
  - A. Community Education
    - The two white papers written by KK concerning PFAS chemical and impact on children and clothing are in for final review before posting.
    - Lisa did not get to talk to the Fire Chief to better understand education and training for first responders to ensure they are aware of the risks associated with PFAS and firefighting material and equipment. KK reported that she had been in contact with a friend of her's that is a first responder in Arizona. In a nut shell, they are instructed as to the dangers of PFAS chemicals and the importance of keeping themselves and equipment clean after use. The actual equipment (turnouts, boots, helmets, gloves) are stored separately and cleaned after each use. Base layers, socks etc. are washed at the station house to minimize contamination at home. KK to post a few links referencing best practices.
    - Cheyenne to continue to update the plant of the month on our webpage.
    - The Butterflies of North Park and Saucony Trail project is completed and announcement stating such has been posted on the EAC web page.
  - B. Water and Air Quality
    - Lisa drafted a letter to DEP concerning NESL's inconsistent testing and reporting. The letter was accepted by Council and submitted to DEP.
    - The Borough continues to receive requests from Maxatawny Township for water service. This hints of future developments being planned for the surrounding farm land.
    - The spreadsheet project for the data collection process for greenhouse gas data and inventory by the Borough is currently on hold.
    - No response from East Penn Manufacturing (EPM) in regard to the air permit renewal request comments. They stated that they are planning to have a response back to us by the end of January. No response received as of date of this meeting.
    - The Foundry sent a letter concerning air quality permit renewal. However, no actual request has been received as of date of this meeting.

### C. Recycling and Trash

- No updates.

### D. Parks and Trails -Todd Underwood (chair)

- Saucony Trail resurfacing: No update from the Borough. However, the Rotary Club has been approached to see if they would be interested in helping to make this a reality.
- The washed-out bridges along the Saucony have been rebuilt. Continuing maintenance is required. This is a possible Eagle Scout project.
- Trash cleanup on March 3<sup>rd</sup> was performed by 16 students along the Creek. Another is planned for mid-April. The creek is still cresting and is being closely monitored for further erosion and damage.
- The \$3K reimbursement from the Berk's County Grant for the Fall planting has been received. Todd is going to investigate and see if more money is available.
- Tree planting is scheduled for April. There are 54 trees total, and the work will be done by Todd's KU students. The grant is was applied through KCP and is in the \$1.5K-\$1.6K range.
- Someone, on their own, led an effort to clean up the access to North Park. No one is claiming responsibility.
- Todd is keeping up with filling the bird feeders.
- On April 13, the Maiden Creek Watershed Association will be doing a Borough farm walk. The goal is to be able to get funding for 60 trees.

Motion to adjourn by Todd Underwood at 7:41 pm, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Cheyenne Friscia.