

Kutztown Environmental Advisory Commission Minutes

Monday May 4, 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), Mike Downing, Tommy Lazorik (KU student rep), Kathy Kelly (Secretary), and Randy Wert (Vice-Chair) by Zoom.

Public Guests: Owen Macfarlane, local Eagle Scout Candidate Troop 101, Andrew MacFarlane and Brian Sheetz both from Troop 101, Andrew Fetterman from Berk's Nature.

- 7:00 pm, Lisa F. moved to approve the minutes from the April 2026 meeting, 2nd by Randy.
- Announcements: None.
- Public Comment: None.
- New Business:
 - Discussion pertaining to the "Inclusion of KEAC in Borough Decision Making," moved to the June 2026 meeting.
 - Terms are 2 -3 years. Need to find the origin of the variability.
- Subcommittee Reports
 - A. Community Education:
 - Mike's short article on the Tree planting efforts was reviewed and approved by all. Todd to supply a couple of pictures to go along with the article. The idea is to spread the word to the community of all the positive efforts being put forth to improving Kutztown.
 - Tommy reported that the table he had set up at KU for Earth Day generated a lot of interest and was very well received.
 - KEAC website/Facebook pages have been updated.
 - B. Water and Air Quality.
 - Discussion on the comments generated on the Noise Ordinance Draft will be reviewed at the June 2026 meeting.
 - Andrew Fetterman, Berk's Nature participated in a review of a letter by the Borough to Dennis Low of DEP (dated March 18, 20 concerning DEP's report on the migration of the Topton plume. To date, a response to the Borough's concerns and questions has not been received. All agree that the Borough needs to generate a follow-up letter in order to gain a response. Lisa L-K to follow up.
 - Recycling and Trash: No update.
 - C. Parks and Trails -Todd Underwood (chair)
 - Todd reported that we have received the approval for a new summer intern, Henry Leardi, who will be part-time.
 - Todd reported that the cover crop in the meadow by the pool is growing and will soon need to be mowed.
 - Todd reported that there was no new ATV activity at North Park during the month of April.

- Todd reported that 55 trees and shrubs were planted and tubed at North Park during April.
- An unexpected delivery of 15 new trees, delivered to North Park by Andrew Fetterman (many thanks) from Berk's Nature, will be planted in May.
- The Boy Scout bridge replacement project is moving forward. A presentation was given to the team by Owen Macfarlane, the Eagle Scout candidate leading the project. Public Works has requested \$500 (pending Council approval) for the lumber and the estimated \$200 to cover miscellaneous items will be generated by a Sandwich fund raiser and private donations. Any surplus funds will be donated to the KEAC. In summary, the bridge closest to the pool along the Saucony Trail will be replaced. The railing on the bridge by Turkey Hill will be repaired as part of the Eagle Scout Project.
- Todd repaired damaged bird boxes and the new boxes will be installed in April.
- Todd received an email from Michele Lopez, Kutztown's Code Enforcement Officer, concerning the opportunity to participate in a Bareroot Tree Program (Bareroot Trees are dormant trees sold without soil around their roots, offering cost-effective, easy-to-plant options for gardens, orchards, and landscapes.) These would be available by grants and she would be willing to help generate the necessary documents.
- There was extensive discussion concerning the deer populations at both Hawk Mountain and North Park which are increasing as verified by cameras. A lot of coordination will need to be worked out including input by Game and Fish if there is to be a culling of the herd in the fall.

Motion to adjourn by Lisa F at 08:18 pm, 2nd by Randy.