

Kutztown Environmental Advisory Commission Minutes

Monday November 6, 2023

In-person meeting at Kutztown Borough Hall: EAC Members: Todd Underwood (Chair), Kathy Kelly (Secretary) by Zoom, Lisa Ladd-Kidder (Borough Council Liaison), Randy Wert

The meeting was called to order by Todd Underwood at 7:02 pm.

1. Randy moved to approve the minutes from the September and October 2023 meetings and 2nd by Kathy.
2. Announcements
3. Public Comment
4. New Business
5. Subcommittee Reports
 - A. Community Education
 - On October 27, 2023, Dr. Muratcan Erkul a Professor in the Business Department, lead a Sustainability in Business Panel Discussion. Kathy Kelly and Cheyenne Friscia represented the KEAC and spoke briefly about what the KEAC has done in Kutztown in support of sustainability activities. Representatives from Waste Management, Penske, B. Brawn, East Penn Mfg., Maxatawny Planning Commission and Berks Gas Truth also participated. The event was very informative and well attended. Kathy has asked Dr. Erkul for an e-copy of the presenters slides.
 - B. Water and Air Quality
 - Q3 6a well water testing at NESL has been received. The values are trending down. In January the level was reported at 5.8 µg/l. The Q3 results are 4.3, 5.2 and 3.6 µg/l for July, August, and September respectively. The discharge pipe values had no excursions over the maximum value of 2.5 µg/l. KK to update tracking spreadsheet and graph.
 - The spreadsheet project for the data collection process for greenhouse gas data and inventory by the Borough is currently on hold.
 - No response yet on the letter regarding the East Penn Manufacturing (EPM) air permit renewal request. KK to check on the time period for review. Note: This facility is the wire and cable division.
 - Public Works wants to build a pole barn to house their equipment. The proposed location is behind Wilson manor near the Boro wells. The current building by Peach Street bridge is irreparable. KEAC may be involved due to possible remediation and environmental concerns.
 - C. Recycling and Trash
 - Mascaro Recycling is picking up glass from the Boro at a cost of \$230/month. Lisa to follow up with Brian Bailey to see if this is economically cost effective.

- Lisa to revisit why a residential household pays the same for trash pickup as a multi-unit dwelling for student housing.

D. Parks and Trails -Todd Underwood (chair)

- Todd was able to get stickers for the Saucony trail signage with correct QR code. Also needs new ones for North Park as those had disintegrated.
- Trash clean up on Saturday October 7 along the creek across from CVS was successful. 12 volunteers did the section from Turkey Hill to Normal Avenue in about an hour!
- Tree planting took place October 15 with the help of 27 volunteers. 100 trees were planted, tubed, and staked in about 2 hrs. along the Saucony trail. Todd has been spraying deer repellent in the area. To date, no check has been received. Todd has written summary reports for the prior two grants and is awaiting money. In all, 500 native trees and shrubs have been planted since 2020.
- High School student update: They will be planting wildflowers. Todd is in contact with assigned faculty member.
- Saucony Trail resurfacing: Lisa said this has not come up at Council meetings. She knows that the company who did this in the past is no longer in business. Lisa to follow up at the Nov. 7, 2023, Council meeting.
- Spring 2024 planting (April) along the creek at North Park, \$1400 plus delivery for 50 trees. Todd to ask Giant for the money which will be processed through KCP. Planting to be done by KU students.

Motion to adjourn by Todd at 8:20 pm, 2nd by Kathy.