

Kutztown Environmental Advisory Commission Minutes

Monday November 4, 2024

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

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

- Cheyenne moved to approve the minutes from the October 2024 meeting and 2nd by Randy.
- Announcements: None
- Public Comment: None
- Subcommittee Reports
 - A. Community Education
 - The EAC webpage is current.
 - Native Plant of the month is currently being brought up to date by Cheyenne.
 - B. Water and Air Quality
 - Lisa L-K reported that there is still confusion over what is to be tested and when at the NESL Quarry. Data was received for the discharge pipe in September and all of the Monitoring Wells. It is unclear as to why the date for the discharge pipe measurement was recorded during a time period when the pumps were off. The test value for MW6A was over the Max Allowable of 5.0 µg/l at 5.3. Lisa is going to draft a letter to the quarry to get the testing issues resolved.
 - The team reviewed Lisa L-K 's summary of the Borough's public water supply from September 2008 to present highlighting periods of dry spells and drought. Data included water levels in Well #1, when the quarry stopped pumping and when they resumed based on the days for the well to recharge to minimum level after rainfall and runoff.
 - Due to the ongoing drought, the water level in Saucony creek is dropping.
 - C. Recycling and Trash
 - No updates.
 - D. Parks and Trails -Todd Underwood (chair)
 - The new posts to replace the trail markers damaged by vandalism have been ordered.
 - The new signage for the Saucony Creek Trail has been received and installed. Todd to contact the Police Department that they now officially start to enforce the rules.
 - A Proposal for a Mountain Bike Course in North Park has been received. KEAC unanimously rejected the idea as the Park is not large enough for any type of reasonable trail system and would be dangerous to those hiking/walking as well as the cyclists.
 - There have been horses at North Park, primarily on Sundays, tied to trees while their humans are engaged in other activities. The horses can be destructive to the vegetation and trees. Lisa L-K has a contact who provided a quote of \$1000 to build a four-horse hitching post. Public Works would install and KEAC would pay would help to defray the cost by contributing \$400. The location would be near the parking lot where there is also room for a few buggies to park. A sign would be posted noting: "Horse and Buggy

Parking Only” in the designated area. Also, no horseback riding in the park will be allowed due to the park’s small size and a high degree of foot traffic. North Park is meant to be a passive nature park.

- Another sign for North Park needs to be generated and posted stating “No Swimming Allowed. Waste Water Effluent may be present.” Todd to talk with Public Works.
- Todd is working on finalizing the grant agreement for the \$4500 grant from Berks County.
- Todd reported that the fall tree planting took place at North Park on November 2nd. 70 trees and shrubs were planted by 14 volunteers, mostly KU students. Trees were tubbed, watered, and sprayed with deer repellant. They will need to be watered once per week by hose from the bathrooms. This will occur until the freeze sets in and the bathrooms are shut down for the winter.
- Next planned planting event of a variety of native trees is planned for April 2025.
- Designated trees at North Park were cut down and the area cleaned up by the independent contractor. They finished early and under budget. The leftover money will be used to have three trees cut down along the Saucony. Estimated total cost is around \$10K.

Budget update:

2024 KEAC Budget	\$1,500			
	-\$317	wildflower seeds		
	-\$550	trail sign posts		
	-\$400	horse posts		
	-\$100	birdseed		
	-\$110	squirrel proof bird feeder (5# capacity)		
	\$23	balance		

Motion to adjourn by Todd Underwood at 08:12 pm, 2nd by Kathy.