Kutztown Environmental Advisory Commission Minutes

Monday October 5, 2026

In-person meeting at Kutztown Borough Hall: EAC Members: Todd Underwood (Meeting Chair), Lisa Ladd-Kidder (L-K) (Borough Council Liaison), Mike Downing, Lisa Forebeck (F), and Tommy Lazorik (KU Student Rep). By Zoom: Randy Wert and Kathy Kelly (Secretary). Guests: Michele Lopez, Kutztown Director of Community Development and Erin McCarty, who is interested in becoming a KEAC member.

- At 7:00 pm, Minor edits made to the minutes and Lisa F. moved to approve the minutes from the September 2026 meeting, 2nd by Mike.
- Announcements: None.
- Public Comment: None.
- EAC Budget: After expenses accounted for this fall (deer repellant, bird seed, and bird boxes) there is still a balance of ~$1100 left out of $1500. It was suggested that EAC kick in $1,000 for the trail extension and post work with the balance to be picked up by the Borough ($600). Lisa L-K to verify if this is agreeable to the Borough. If we would still end up with a surplus after the money from the Boy Scout Fundraiser for the bridge work is received, it would be applied to Berk's Nature for more trees and shrubs for the Spring planting.
- New Business: None.
- Subcommittee Reports
  A. Community Education: Mike reported that there has been no update on the newsletter. There was a brief discussion on the beginning of drone deliveries by Amazon. More research is needed to see how this would impact Kutztown.
  B. Water and Air Quality.
     - No update on the Topton plume status or DEP meeting.
     - Todd supplied information on Road Salt Reduction Project in PA. There is a free Webinar sponsored by Penn State Extension on October 13, 2026, at noon. This broadcast will be available for future viewing if you cannot be present for the first showing. All you have to do is register.
     - A brief discussion on the United Nations global water report.
     - USGS Sacony Creek Monitoring Station: The data being generated is erroneous because when the quarry releases water, the water backs up. The station is intended to measure the water quality upstream. Currently, the quarry has not released water since April 30, 2026, and the creek itself has been flowing intermittently in the interim. Todd to talk with the USGS person responsible for the gauge.
  C. Recycling and Trash: No update.
  D. Parks and Trails -Todd Underwood (chair)
     - During the last week of September, the KU Student Environmental Action Club performed a clean-up along the creek across from CVS.
     - Michele reported that Easement agreement was signed by KASD.

- Todd reported that the new maps to be generated for the north and south sections of the Sacony trail will be done by a retired KU professor who is a cartographer. He will develop these for free.
- The North Park deer enclosures will be installed during October.
- Todd confirmed that the concrete dumped along the Sacony trail has been cleaned up by those responsible.
- North Park habitat restoration 2026-27: Shrub removal will begin in December 2026.
- Lisa F. to follow up with Owen Macfarlane and the Boy Scout troop as to any funds to be handed over to EAC in the form of a donation.
- Public Works have installed a temporary snow fence to help prevent whomever from driving their truck to the restrooms at North Park. It was effective until someone removed it. It has been reinstalled.
- An old picnic table was left in the parking lot of North Park and Public Works removed it. The message needs to get to the community that it is not ok to drop off old items even if their intention is good.
- The new bird feeders have been installed.

Motion to adjourn by Randy at 8:01 pm, 2nd by Lisa F.