Kutztown Environmental Advisory Commission

September Meeting

September 4, 2019


Meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Jeri Sievert.

1. Approved the minutes for the August meeting.

2. Public Comment:

Lisa Ladd-Kidder- Represented the planning commission and reported on discussion at the Water and Wastewater Committee meeting regarding the proposed changes to the Borough’s Conditional Water Agreement with the New Enterprise quarry. Planning commission submitted a statement requesting consultation with an environmental lawyer and consultants before making a decision on the proposed changes. The Water and Wastewater Committee took no action on this proposal. Lisa also discussed a joint statement from the Planning Commission and the EAC regarding a recommendation to oppose the planned changes if an appropriate approach to making a decision on the changes to the water agreement is not followed. EAC members unanimously voted to support this statement and proceed in this manner if needed.

Phila Back - provided a report about changes in idling times of the Auburn and Allentown Railroad’s diesel engine next to Pine St. She noted that idling time recently has been reduced dramatically (~80%) and in one case was as low as 4 minutes. Phila noted that she will be going to Borough Council to ask why they haven’t been able to do this sooner and request that the railroad consistently reduced idling time to near 4 minutes. EAC members noted this was good news that idling and emissions were reduced so dramatically and cautioned her against requesting further reductions.

3. Old Business: None

4. New Business:

5. Subcommittee Reports

- KU Environmental Committee - Todd Underwood (chair)
  - No report
- Community Education – (Chair open)
  - No report
- Air & Water Quality - Jeri Carroll-Sievert (chair)
  - No report – train issue discussed with Phila Back
- Recycling Program –
- Parks & Trail - Todd Underwood (chair)-
- White Oak garden update. Brian Bailey does not know who to ask for permission to use water at Hope Cemetery. He suggested asking the mayor. An EAC member will ask the mayor. Brian also indicated he has funds to buy a new, recycled plastic bench for the garden. EAC members must decide on the size of the bench before it can be ordered.

- Sacony Creek. Todd Underwood requested information from Brian Bailey on when borough’s contractor will be treating invasive Japanese knotweed patches along the creek in town. No response has been received yet.

6. Meeting ended at 8:00PM