Kutztown Environmental Advisory Commission Minutes

Wednesday September 7, 2022

In-person meeting at Kutztown Borough Hall: EAC Members: Todd Underwood (Chair), Keith Leinbach, Lisa Ladd-Kidder (Borough Council Liaison). Bethany Francis, guest

Meeting was called to order by Todd Underwood at 6:58 pm.

Minutes from the August 2022 were approved.

New Business

1. Subcommittee Reports
   a. Community Education
      • The team reviewed the white paper on PFAS that Kathy put together. Kathy will do a brief revision on the paper, and it will be reviewed at the October meeting. Upon approval by the team, Todd will submit to be posted on the Borough website and Facebook page to bring awareness to our citizens of the potential dangers of these substances.
   b. Water and Air Quality
      • The 2022 PA State Water Plan (Draft) Water plan was briefly discussed. It is a 141-page document that contains the findings of the State Water Plan committees for this update of the State Water Plan, including recommendations for action, legislative priorities, and regional components for each of the six water planning regions identified in Act 220 of 2002. Comments to be made individually and not by KEAC as a group.
      • It does not appear that Kutztown is reporting water usage to the state for inclusion in the statewide report. Keith to send Lisa a link to check on this.
      • Brief discussion on fracking waste usage in western PA.
      • No updates on SB597—privatization of municipal water entities.
      • Lisa to follow up to see if air-stripping is being performed by NESL and if so, what type of air filtration or scrubbing is being utilized.
      • Lisa will check to see if any PFAS testing is being performed during the regular Borough water tests. As another piece of information, Keith will look into any testing that Air Products may be performing.
      • No update on greenhouse gas data and inventory.
   c. Recycling and Trash
      • Trash and recycle pickup to revert to trash 2x per week with recycle for all materials on alternating Wednesdays’.
   d. Parks and Trails -Todd Underwood (chair)
• Approximately $2K worth of trees have been ordered. The fall cleanup and planting are tentatively scheduled for 10/22-23/2022 which will utilize random community volunteers. The spring cleanup and planting will involve KU volunteer students.
• Update on North Park Bridge: Plans are moving forward and may be finished by the end of the year. The cost is estimated around $1 million and will be shared by the Borough and Maxatawney Township, not Berks County.
• White Oak Pollinator Garden: Many thanks again to the Underwood family for doing a stellar job of cleanup at the garden including mulching. The new bench looks great! Mulch will be placed under and around it to help minimize weeds and grass.
• Resurfacing of the Saucony Creek trail has been approved which will require about $7K in gravel from Turkey Hill to the pool and an additional $2K from Normal Ave to the elementary school. There is also discussion about extending the trail following the creek around the football field.
• There are about $50 worth of 5-gallon water jugs available for watering if needed.
• Also, there is still some money left to purchase wildflower plugs and plant at the White Oak Garden and the Riparian buffer (which needs to be reclaimed) by the elementary school. High and middle school students would be used to plant the flowers. Each flat is about $60, and it is estimated that about 10 flats would be needed. Todd to check and see if the school district can chip in on the cost. Need to order by December for delivery by April.
• There is serious bank erosion down by the elementary school and the bank needs to be stabilized by dirt and rocks. This will require a permit. The Boro is checking on this and it may require an environmental study.

e. Foundry
• Keith presented a review of the DEP imposed baghouse particulate limits. In summary, the 0.01 gr/dry standard cubic feet (dscf) is more stringent than the 0.04 gr/dscf default limit for most processes. DEP also added a particulate emission limit of 1.621 tons per year of total particulate emissions from the three combined collectors listed in the application.
• Storm Water Discharge from the Foundry is currently listed as non-exposure. Can DEP inspect for this? We can observe for a few months.

Meeting ended at 8:15 pm