

Kutztown Environmental Advisory Commission Minutes

Monday December 4, 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 November 2023 meetings and 2nd by Todd.
2. Announcements
 - Larry Lloyd of Berks Nature will be meeting with Todd on 12/13 at the pool parking lot to discuss native vegetation along the Saucony trail. Todd to send out information to the team if anyone wants to attend.
 - Gina Wiand informed Todd that our 2024 meeting dates are all on the 1st Monday of each month except for January and September, when they will be on the Thursday of the same week.
3. Public Comment
 - Todd will work on the 2023 Annual Report and have it ready to submit for February 2024.
4. New Business: 2023 budget and final purchases
 - Todd to verify exactly how much is left in our budget and order supplies, birdhouses, and tools. With whatever is left over, he will work with the suppliers to pre-order and pay for wildflowers and possibly trees. Details to be presented at January meeting.
5. Subcommittee Reports
 - A. Community Education
 - Kathy obtained and shared an e-copy of Dr. Erkal's Sustainability in Business class syllabus. Still awaiting e-copies of the presenters slides. In the meantime, it was suggested that anyone interested go to the presenters business website to learn about what the individual businesses are doing in the Sustainability arena. The companies are Waste Management, Penske, B. Brawn, East Penn Mfg., Maxatawney Planning Commission and Berks Gas Truth.
 - On our Borough website is a link to the butterflies of North park, complete with dorsal and ventral pictures. Search "Butterflies of North Park" and the link opens. This is a great addition and extremely well done. Ultimately there will be a QR code posted at the park for an easy link.
 - B. Water and Air Quality

- Q4 6a well water testing at NESL will be available by February 2024.
- Lisa presented data that shows a potential influence between Duke's TW1 (Test Well) and Boro's Well #4. In order to better understand this, Duke needs to conduct the 5-day test on TW1 as stated by DEP. Another question to be addressed is whether TW1 is tied into the Quarry.
- 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. Kathy reported that time period for review is referenced as between 107 – 120 days. Lisa will draft a letter for Borough Council requesting a response from EPM to our July 19, 2023 (the 120 day review period has passed) comment letter. This facility is the wire and cable division.
- Public Works wants to build a pole barn to house their equipment. However, the location behind Wilson manor will need to be revisited due to the proximity to the Boro wells.

C. Recycling and Trash

- No update.

D. Parks and Trails -Todd Underwood (chair)

- The QR codes for North Park have been delivered.
- High School student update: They planted about 2 dozen wildflowers.
- 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 December 7, 2023, Council meeting.
- There is discussion about extending the Saucony trail to go up by middle school. The school district wants to keep this part of the trail grass as it is used for the cross-country team course and is rated as one of the better courses in the county. The easement will have to be amended with the school and farm owner.

Motion to adjourn by Randy at 8:11pm, 2nd by Kathy.