

Kutztown Environmental Advisory Commission Minutes

Monday July 1, 2024

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 7:00 pm.

- Randy moved to approve the minutes from the June 2024 meeting and 2nd by Todd.
- Announcements: None.
- Public Comment: None
- Subcommittee Reports
 - A. Community Education
 - The EAC webpage is current.
 - Native Plant of the month is awaiting June update. Cheyenne will catch up in July.
 - B. Water and Air Quality
 - Todd generated a letter to DEP in response to their comments of our letter concerning the inconsistencies of the testing performed by NESL and the PCE levels in Monitoring Well 6a. The values reported were from the discharge pipe, not the MW #6a itself which is why the values were lower. Lisa to follow up with NESL and request May/June data including Pumping quantities, Monitoring Well 6a level and PCL test results.
 - No update on the potential sale of the three Topton properties. The Borough did receive a letter from PA DEP regarding outlining certain provisions and limitation of activities specifically those that would disturb the soil and negatively impact ground water.
 - Spots, Stevens, and McCoy are going to do a reevaluation of the Saucony Creek Watershed. The goal is to identify which area's are high recharge and which are not. This information will go a long way in helping to evaluate potential areas for development (or not). Cost of the study is between \$10K and \$23K.
 - The spreadsheet project for the data collection process for greenhouse gas data and inventory by the Borough is still on hold.
 - Response received from East Penn Manufacturing (EPM) in regard to their Kutztown Wire and Cable (KWC) Manufacturing Facility State Only Operating Permit #06-03063 renewal request. Kutztown Borough responded to the original request in July 2023. The team reviewed the comments and approved. Kathy drafted a letter to DEP stating that East Penn's comments have been reviewed and accepted. This letter was sent to Council. No final word as of July meeting.
 - The Foundry sent a "State only Air Permit Renewal Application." The application was reviewed with no proposed changes. Todd to write a letter to Council and ultimately to PA DEP stating that we appreciate the chance to review and that we accept the renewal permit application.
 - There was much discussion around the proposed development called Villas@Maxatawny, project reference BKK-MAX-01. The proposed location is in a field roughly bounded by College Boulevard, Fairview Avenue, Greenwich Street, and the 222 Kutztown Bypass. The team reviewed a letter that Lisa wrote to Chris Paff, the

Maxatawny Township Zoning Officer requesting additional information. No response as of July meeting.

- Kathy put together a summary of the Penn State Extension Zoom presentation on Forever Chemicals. She commented that the presentation was excellent. She will contact PSU Ext to see if we can post a link to this on our webpage. If not, the team will determine if PFAS paper #4 should be posted.
- A request was received from Clifford Hill Sanitation Services to extend the allowable waste per day from 54 to 300 tons per day for their landfill transfer station. There are many concerns surrounding this request, including but not limited to: increased truck traffic, monitoring of the waste types including radioactive and hazardous wastes, impact on the Saucony creek. The transfer station is about one mile from the Kutztown Borough wells and should be within the well protection zone. Lisa to attend the Maxatawny Township meeting on June 4, 2024. No update.

C. Recycling and Trash

- Lisa to follow up with Public Works to determine if the Borough is profitable with glass recycling. The team reviewed the government guidelines for municipality recycling guidelines. All agree that recycling has a positive impact regardless of profitability.

D. Parks and Trails -Todd Underwood (chair)

- Saucony Trail is open, and based on Todd's observation, some people and dogs are on school property. This needs to be addressed before the beginning of the Fall 2024 school session. There needs to be some type of police presence to enforce the regulations posted on the signs. However, the police say they cannot enforce if it is not a real trail. The school district wants a definition of a "real trail" from the police department.
- The two interns are hard at work trimming the Saucony Trail and removing invasive shrubs. At North Park they are watering the newly planted trees and shrubs as needed.
- Whomever is mowing at both North park and Saucony Trail seem to mow everything in their path. At Saucony, they cut between trees and managed to wipe out two trees without tubes. At North park, they mowed where seeds had just been planted. The good news is that some are growing.
- Todd has submitted a grant to Berks County for \$2,300 for the fall tree planting and the same for the spring planting. The County does not move fast. The trees for Fall must be ordered by the end of July and planted in late October/early November. We need to ask Public Works if they can pay \$1,500 (EAC \$800 out of their budget) to cover the costs upfront until the grant comes through.
- Out of EAC's budget of \$1,500, \$300 has been spent on bird and flower seeds thus far in 2024.
- Stroud Research Center has been conducting studies of fresh water systems and during the course of a study of Saucony creek, they discovered an invasive snail. It is unknown at this time what, if any, harm it can cause. No update.
- Todd has been asking Public Works to cut down some invasive trees at North park since 2019. He will follow up again with Brian Bailey.

Motion to adjourn by Todd Underwood at 08:18 pm, 2nd by Kathy.