Kutztown Environmental Advisory Commission Minutes

Monday May 2, 2022

In-person meeting at Kutztown Borough Hall: EAC Members: Todd Underwood, Kathy Kelly, Keith Leinbach, Lisa Ladd-Kidder, Cheyenne Friscia

Meeting was called to order by Todd Underwood at 7:00pm.

Minutes from the April 2022 were approved.

New Business

1. Budget
   a. No update.
2. Team Members
   a. No activity.
3. Subcommittee Reports
   a. Community Education
      • No update.
   b. Parks and Trail - Todd Underwood (Chair)
      • On 4/21/2022, the Kutztown Middle School cleaned up from the school along the Saucony Creek from the school all the way down to the Kutztown Car Wash. They did a great job!
      • Lisa mentioned that the Borough had had a grant for individual citizens to subsidize tree planting on their property. The money per property was $50-$75 and she thought the total pool was $3000. No update.
      • Kathy will check with her neighbors on cleaning up the White Oak pollinator garden during May.
      • The KU Environmental Biology Class planted 76 trees at North Park, 50 on the hill and 26 along the stream.
      • Currently, the North Park Bridge is closed to vehicle traffic (walking only) due to structural reasons caused by debris flow. Structural engineers will be called in to provide an evaluation and estimate for repairs or rebuild. Target is for an update at the 5/3/2022 Public Works Meeting. Note, there are only 2 parking spaces available.
      • Todd noted that the deadline for the grant to cut down and remove dead and invasive trees at North Park is May 13, 2022. This may be delayed due to lack of access.
   c. Water and Air Quality - Keith Leinbach (Chair)
      • No update on obtaining the data.
      • Foundry DEP Permit revisions. During the month of April 2022, the Borough received a letter from PA DEP concerning the McConway and Turley, LLC (M&T) reactivation plan. Overall, per Keith, their responses to our questions and concerns
are acceptable with a few exceptions which Keith will summarize and present to the Borough Council on May 18, 2022. However, it is not entirely clear as to what they are really doing, heat treat and finish only or are they planning on smelting? It was suggested that our Borough website, that a link be set up to allow for citizens to complain if there are odors emitted.

- We did a brief review of the water rate comparison among Kutztown, Fleetwood and Topton. Lisa indicated that the Water and Waste Water (W/WW) Departments will be evaluating the current rate structure in the near future. All agreed a senior citizen living alone should not pay the same rate as a major business. Water conservation needs to be incentivized. Kathy to send out the water rate comparison calculations to the team which demonstrates the need for a tiered structure.

- Lisa provided a very detailed record of PCE (Perchloroethylene, a known carcinogen) test results with focus on the New Enterprise Stone and Lime Company’s (NESL) monitoring well 6a and their discharge pipe. A short summary: The good news is that the metal levels from the monitoring wells around the quarry appear to be primarily below the Maximum Contaminate Level (MCL) established by the PA DEP. Also, the water tests from the Borough wells show no excess for either metal levels or Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC) levels, including PCEs. The bad news is that the PCE levels appear to be rising and higher levels are appearing more frequently over the recent years. In water testing from both monitoring well#6a and in water tested from the discharge pipe. The team discussed in detail the test results and plan forward as presented and approved by both the W/WW Committee and Borough Council. Can these be viewed in W/WW and Council Minutes? Todd will write a letter requesting specific information in regards to monitoring the movement of the plume.

d. Recycling and Trash

- The Math Department at KU is working with Public Works to improve all overall efficiency. No update.

- Kathy to talk with Sandy Green about the status of the trash/recycle letter written and submitted several months ago. No update.

- Cheyenne provided the team with information on how to refuse unwanted mail and remove name from mailing lists. A person may register for mail suppression service called DMAchoice provided by the Association of National Advertisers (ANA). The following link will allow you to access registration either online or by mail www.usa.gov/telemarketing

Meeting ended at 8:45 pm