

Borough of Kutztown
Planning Commission
Minutes of May 8, 2023

A regular meeting of the Planning Commission was held on Monday, May 8, 2023, in the Kutztown Borough Municipal Building Multi-Purpose Room.

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. by Mr. Robert Weller, Chairperson. Members present were: Ms. Pat Snyder, Mr. Joel Seidel, Mr. Randy Marsteller, Ms. Laurel Ziegler, and Ms. Denise Bosler. Also present were Mr. Gabriel Khalife Borough Manager and Mr. Ulises Otero, BCO from Barry Isett for the Community Development Office. Present from the public was Ms. Lisa Ladd Kidder.

Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items

No public comments.

Approval of Minutes

Planning Commission members reviewed the minutes for the April 2023 Planning Commission meeting. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Ms. Snyder and seconded by Mr. Marsteller. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Reports

Mr. Ulises Otero, BCO provided a summary of action for the last few weeks for the Community Development Office (CDO).

- An update on the property at 333 Normal Ave. will be provided via email later this week.

Action Items

- Commission discussion of the Proposed Noise Ordinance.

Ms. Ladd-Kidder shared comments related to the proposed noise ordinance. She shared some observations related to the start and stop times being easier to enforce if not measured by sunrise and sunset and the importance of an ordinance being applied fairly and consistently. Also, she referenced language in an earlier draft of a noise ordinance that provided commentary on specific language around community events that were exempt in a previous version.

A motion was made to send the following statement to Borough Council related to the proposed noise ordinance. The motion was made by Ms. Ziegler and seconded by Ms. Snyder. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

"We do not recommend adopting the noise ordinance with the existing language due to our concerns with the following:

- the proposed decibel level being unreasonably low
- the 30 minutes prior to sunset being an unreasonably early enforcement time that changes throughout the year

- the inconsistent applicability of the ordinance to all events in town
- the challenge with appropriately enforcing the ordinance and
- the possible discouragement of thriving, social events that encourage a vibrant community.”

Old Business/Updates

- Discuss Kutztown Borough Comprehensive Plan
 - The next meeting will be held on May 17. Mr. Weller plans to attend to represent our commission.

New Business

- Set the agenda for the May Planning Commission Workshop Meeting – The May 22 Workshop Meeting will focus on:
 - Update from the 17 May Comprehensive Plan meeting
- o Discussion on several existing discussion items:
 - Impacts of industrial zoning on medium industrial overlay
 - Solar farms
 - Hazardous materials

Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Ms. Bosler and seconded by Ms. Ziegler to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed by unanimous vote. The meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
 Laurel Ziegler
 Meeting Secretary