



# EWING GREEN TEAM

*Promoting People, the Planet, and Prosperity in Ewing*

MAY 20, 2015 MINUTES

LOCATION: EWING SENIOR & COMMUNITY CENTER

## PRESENT

Green Team members denoted with an asterisk \*

Pete Boughton \*  
Mary Corrigan \*  
Valerie Caffee \*  
Dave Byers \*  
Michael Nordquist \*  
Mark Wetherbee \*

Joanne Mullowney \*  
Caroline Steward \*  
John Hoegl \*  
Lisa Feldman\*  
Helen Tai

## INTRODUCTION

The March and April minutes were unanimously approved.

## Discussion

Helen Tai discussed a self-guided Garden Tour being sponsored by the Girl Scouts that will be held on June 13<sup>th</sup>. It includes homes in Ewing (mostly), Trenton and Lawrence. The **Beautify Ewing** enthusiasts are very interested in coordinating with them next year. They have already approached members of the West Trenton Garden Club about this and Dave Byers also has a list of Ewing Master Gardeners who we might be able to get involved. As was shown in Dave Byer's presentation earlier this year on the **GardenWalk Buffalo**, they have been shown to be very beneficial to communities, raising awareness about the benefits of a cleaner, more beautiful place to live and yielding a greater sense of pride in the community and also a great benefit to the local economy.

Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed will have a tour for Green Team and Environmental Commission members on June 25<sup>th</sup>. Their new center is certified LEED Platinum from the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design program and demonstrates responsible technologies such as geothermal heating, a green roof and much more that we will see on the tour.



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## TEAM REPORTS

### ENERGY

The Mayor's letter to local businesses encouraging them to participate in the ***NJ Clean Energy Program's Direct Install Program*** was mailed to over 1000 businesses in Ewing. This program pays for up to 70% of energy improvements for small and medium sized businesses in the state. Business need to put out only the remaining 30%. An ***Energy Seminar*** has been planned which will reinforce the mailing and offer additional information about the program. It will take place on June 3<sup>rd</sup>. All businesses in Ewing were invited through an insert in the mailing. An ad was also placed in ***US1*** – the local business newspaper and a press release was given to the Ewing Observer to encourage all local businesses to attend and learn more about the program. Sandra Torres from Tri-State Light and Energy will present and John and Pete have asked Mike Winka from the BPU to attend and add additional information about the program.



**NJ's Clean Energy Direct Install Program Will Help You Replace Your Lighting, HVAC, Refrigeration and more**

<http://www.njcleanenergy.com/di>

**70% PAID**

- Includes no cost energy assessment
- Program pays for up to 70% of total project costs
- We take care of everything from permits to recycling
- Tenant or Landlord may apply
- Not a Rebate!



### RECYCLING

The EGT's recycling web-site has gone live. Check it out at <http://ewingrecycles.org>. The Ewing recycling map is also ready for wider distribution. The next shred day is on June 26<sup>th</sup>.

### GARDENS

The gardens are fully leased and planting has taken place.

### BIKE ADVOCACY

A Bike tour is being planned to go with Community Fest on Sept 26. The route is being planned. The next meeting is June 18<sup>th</sup>. It was agreed that we join the July 4<sup>th</sup> parade to advertise our activities – most especially the Bike Tour. We would ride bikes during the parade.

### BEAUTIFY EWING

Joanne and Dave announced that both entrances at Town Hall have been planted and look great. Still to be done is signage with the QR codes at each entrance. The QR codes will direct people with a QR code reader on their smart phones to pages with more information about the plantings.



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## LIVING LOCAL EXPO

The Mercer Hub, the coalition of green teams and sustainability organizations has been working steadily to increase county-wide participation. Joanne announced that they are taking over the ***Living Local Expo*** that runs each year in March and are in the process of building a website. The Mercer Hub is also working on a Sustainable Jersey for Schools informational program for Mercer schools. The date has not yet been set. The EGT will also be receiving \$500 for its work in the hub activities to use towards capacity building.

## NEIGHBORHOODS

Group leader Caroline Steward, called a group together which met on May 20 and used a map to outline the neighborhoods and identify them. Twenty-nine communities have been identified so far. The group would like to get the history of the neighborhoods. How did it get its name? Were there famous people from the neighborhood? Other notables, Paul Steward has a Facebook page "Somewhere in Ewing" and Ron Prykinowski has a "what's going on in Ewing" page.

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH

On June 24<sup>th</sup> the ***Environmental Insights Program*** is on ***Invasive Species***. A guest speaker, Susan Brookman, Executive Director of the NJ Invasive Species Strike Team, will present. Please encourage all you know to attend. This will replace the regular monthly meeting.

## IN CONCLUSION

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 to the Firkin Tavern to celebrate two occasions - the EGT's sixth birthday and that of Rachel Carson.

Respectfully submitted,

*Mary Corrigan*