



EWING GREEN TEAM

April 24, 2013 Minutes

The April meeting of the Ewing Green Team was called to order by Peter Boughton at 7:02 p.m.

Present:

Pete Boughton *
Valorie Caffee *
Lisa Feldman *
John Hoegl *
Kim Nickelson-Raike
Richard Raike
Charlie McDonough

Mary Jane Leach *
Joe Mirabella *
Joann Mullowney *
Mark Wetherbee *
Don Cox
Joe Murphy

Absent:

Tom Elder *
Jim McManimon *

Jennifer Keyes-Malone * (excused)
Carl Benedetti, Sr. *
Miguel Martinez *

SUMMARY

The following were the major points covered during the meeting:

- Committee reports and actions on the Community Gardens, Anti-idling, Energy Efficiency, and Recycling
- Officers Report
- Reports on other initiatives – Joe Murphy's report.
- New business - outreach.

INTRODUCTIONS

Pete Boughton called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. and asked if those present had read the minutes from the March meeting as posted on our website. Since there were no comments or corrections, he asked if someone would move to approve them. Valorie Caffee so moved and John Hoegl seconded. The vote was unanimous for approval.

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND DISCUSSION

HEALTH AND WELLNESS COMMITTEE

ANTI-IDLING INITIATIVE

* Appointed members

Valorie Caffee reported that the anti-idling resolution was about ready. Jennifer Keyes-Malone, our Council Representative, watered down the enforcement portion of the resolution to make it more acceptable to the Council, although if properly enforced, this could be a source of funds for the Township. However, the bottom line is not funds, but educating people and getting people to obey the law. Valorie has been looking around at businesses in town. Not many, just Shop Rite on Olden Ave, had signs and Shop Rite had only one.

Mary Jane was still working with Chelsea Sandmeyer our Bonner Scholar from TCNJ trying to bring our anti-idling campaign into the schools. She focused on 3 points.

1. Can we put the signs up?
2. Creating a flyer for parents with information on anti-idling.
3. The short video that Chelsea is creating for teachers to use in the classroom. It is very cute and involves the good decisions fairy and will take about 5 – 10 minutes of classroom education time.

These are all things that would be very easy for the schools to do. MJ has found that you need to go to the central office at the schools. Since that had not worked in the past, she had tried the PTOs and principals... with no success.

Pete shared that thanks in part to Jenn Keyes Maloney, the Green Team officers have a meeting on Friday, May 3rd with Brian Falkowski, the Ewing Schools Business Administrator. Don Cox suggested that we use our school representative to get access. Pete said that we don't actually have a school representative due to confusion of appointment between Carl Benedetti Jr. and Sr.

OFFICERS REPORT

Pete reported that the elected officers, he, Mary Jane Leach and Joanne Mullowney have been working on determining whether accreditation from Sustainable Jersey was possible this year. They had downloaded the Sustainable Jersey spreadsheet and had started assessing the areas for which we might be able to get points. He asked if the following Green Team members would cover the documentation for various parts of the requirements

- John Hoegl – to work with Mark Wetherbee on Energy Efficiency and on the Lawrence Living Local Expo documentation.
- Joe Mirabella – to be the anti-idling lead for Sustainable Jersey points
- Lisa Feldman – to be the lead on entering documentation on recycling.

Our goal is to make a decision by the Sustainable Jersey (SJ) deadline of mid-June to commit to an action. The three officers will handle the upload to the Sustainable Jersey site. We need the documentation from the assigned team leaders to properly consolidate and upload by mid September if we wish SJ review for credit.

Pete also commended the work that Jenn Keyes-Malone has done so far in opening doors for the team and obtaining information and results. From promoting the fence to editing the resolutions to acting as a facilitator to get an interview with Ewing Schools' personnel, she has contributed a lot to our group. Her youthful stamina and exuberance has been a great help.

* Appointed members

Mary Jane also talked about getting the process for the information flow in place. The officers will send each group leader the requirements for certification and additional information in the form of the downloaded Sustainable Jersey PDF. The spreadsheet will also be sent around regularly.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Rich Raike said that the window film was going to be installed at the municipal building. Mark Wetherbee also reported that he had found his spreadsheet with his original calculations for energy savings. He just needs to enter the number of total square feet to complete them.

He also talked more about the film. It is crystal clear and you can see through it. It will be applied to the exterior. The application of the film should create a huge energy saving. It will cost about \$15,000 to do the windows and the payback should be very quick with a great savings on the air conditioning costs.

The question was asked, "why not replace the class with low e glass?" This works but does not have the same reflective capacity as the window film. The film is much better. Mark reported that from his own installation the temperature measurement was 92°F and this went down to 74°F. The glass stops the transmission of the thermal energy, but not the infra-red light.

Mary Jane asked if the low e has anything to do with what happens in winter. Mark said no. In winter, solar has a more direct angle coming into your window

John Hoegl said that the Energy Team has three possible Township actions for partial certification credit from Sustainable Jersey: the white roof, the installation of the LED lighting at the municipal building, and the window film installation. Mary Jane said that we will need to reread the certification requirements in this area. It was also announced that the mayor will be purchasing high efficiency boilers for the municipal building. John Hoegl wants to put urgency on this submission to Sustainable Jersey.

Mark Wetherbee also announced that his company will support his work for the Township by allowing him 4 to 5 hours each month to work on our Township's projects. This will result in greater availability for Mark to continue his work. He also said in response to a question about the Hollowbrook building audit that it has safety issues, not just environmental ones.

Pete said that we were told to use a Freedom of Information request to obtain specific township documentation. It would be best to get it electronically to avoid the per-page fee and so that we don't have to retype and re-enter data. Mary Jane recommended that we make sure that we really need these things. Again, look at Sustainable Jersey requirements.

Again, a question of the issues at the Hollowbrook facility came up. Is the fuel oil tank still there and is there still 750 gallons of oil in it? Mark said that the display said that the tank had the oil, but could be inaccurate and that Jim McManimon thought that the tank had been pulled out. He also said that there was a huge asbestos issue there.

RECYCLING

* Appointed members

Lisa Feldman reported on the Shred Events scheduled for 2013. She is coordinating with Tom Elder, the township Recycling Coordinator. Tom will have the shredder truck on April 27th at Hollowbrook Community Center for the first event. Valorie Caffee will be supplying volunteers from her civic association, as well as from the high school and a TCNJ fraternity. Lisa is supplying the materials and Tom will update the township flyer to include the Green Team participation and events. Mark said he emailed the flyer to his fellow Kiwanis and his neighborhood civic association. Lisa passed around the shredding flyer created by Kim Nickelson that detailed the Green Team plans for the 3 shredding events in Ewing this year. They were approved by all.

John asked if there would be a sign up sheet for more information. Joanne Mullowney said that she would supply it, along with supplying the new Green Team trifold flyer. Pete asked for Green Team support for the event that members of the team come out to support our efforts that day.

Lisa announced that we are trying to arrange for a pickup day in coordination with one of the other shred days to help people who can't get their large TVs to the electronic waste disposal days or to the Township recycling facility on Scotch Road. She has asked the Vietnam Veterans if they would like to be involved because they have a truck with a lift gate. She thinks that this could be a win/win for all. The Vets would get the donation, the Township would get the tonnage, and the residents would get their large electronics removed. It was also suggested that we consider partnering with the Rescue Mission or Habitat for Humanity.

Another suggestion was the Boys and Girls Club Computer Exchange. This is in the Marrazzo's Shopping center over by Rita's. People can donate computer equipment there and they fix it up and repair it.

Lisa also asked whether a determination had been made to see if we can fund raise. She would like to do a bake sale at the 27th Shred Event to raise money for the Green Team. The Township CFO would probably have to set up a special account line to would these funds. John Hoegl said that the Green Team had looked into this in the past. Mary Jane also added that we be very deliberative in our fund raising efforts. We would need very good accounting. It would be great to have a separate line item set up in the township budget each year because we have a chronic condition of no funding that we can readily access ourselves. MJ would like to take the steps to get this line item setup. She will broach this with the township CFO.

John Hoegl said that at his last meeting with Jim McManimon that he broached the idea of periodic meetings between the Green Team leadership and Township administration. Jim would be willing to meet once a month and the mayor might be available quarterly.

JOE MURPHY'S REPORT

Joe spoke with a grant writer, Susan Caruso Green, about getting additional materials for the community gardens such as tools and a shed. She works for the Resource Development Network (www.resourcedevelopmentnetwork.com) and is available at scgreen@aol.com. He passed her information to MJ and Joanne. She would prefer if one of the gardeners is a master gardener for the purpose of securing the grant. It was noted that a number of the gardeners at the Community Gardens are master gardeners.

* Appointed members

It was also mentioned that the Boy Scouts at the West Trenton Presbyterian Church would be a great resource for building a compost bin. It would be a great project for them.

Pete said that he thinks that we ought to work on Sustainable Jersey points development first and then on fundraising.

COMMUNITY GARDENS AND LOCAL FOOD

Mary Jane Leach reported on the activities of the Community Gardens Committee. The wonderful news is that the township has promised to provide the site fencing. It will be deer fencing at least 8'high and also dug into the ground. We are mostly waiting on its installation. Administration officials have asked that no individual plot fences be installed for the sake of appearance. An email has gone out to all gardeners for whom we had email addresses requesting the same with suggestions for temporary fencing. MJ and Joanne were naturally concerned about the investment that the gardeners are making and hope that the fence will be soon. The new water line has also been mostly installed by Township staff. There was another site work day in April but there is still a lot more work to do with moving the tree chips out of the way before the fence arrives.

Joe Mirabella also is going to review the Phone Poulenc/Tom Loser Chemical Plant DEP filet with the report of possible dumping at the site near the gardens before they were moved there. The file is 3000 pages. Pete volunteered his assistance. Mark suggested that the pollution was in the form of vapor, not liquid or solid.

OTHER DISCUSSION

BEN FRANKLIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Lisa shared information about Ben Franklin Elementary School in Lawrence. They are eco-award winners with a terrific program for kids.

OUTREACH

Pete and John talked about the TCNJ program that they attended that afternoon representing the Green Team. Our flyers were handing out.

Joanne asked for assistance from all team leaders to provide information for the website so that it will accurately reflect all that the committees are trying to accomplish and also contain useful information on green topics for residents. Mark Wetherbee replied that he will photograph the new LED lighting at the municipal building for the website.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Mark Wetherbee also remarked that the new LED will last for 50,000 hours and take 1/3 of the power and there should be very little in the way of parts replacement costs. The payback should be in 2 – 2.5 years. He also attended an International Light Fair and remarked on the great improvements to lighting technology. He also said that there will be a big rebate on the lighting as well as the new boilers.

* Appointed members

Mary Jane asked about Direct Install. It is not limited to municipal buildings. Mark said no and he took the Direct Install information to Erini's where the Kiwanis meet and they were most interested in it. The discussion turned to the Economic Development Commission. It is thought that it was done away with. We don't think that there is any entity in the township that is promoting things with the town's businesses. We need to put together a plan for outreach to the Ewing Business Community on Direct Install and other energy topics. It was felt that since Ewing is an old town that a lot of the businesses and their facilities are old. They would definitely benefit from outreach on energy efficiency topics. The question of how information from the township gets parsed out to businesses came up. Perhaps the Mercer Chamber of Commerce would be of assistance in setting up a business "green fair." This could be started in the fall.

Pete asked for volunteers to adjourn the meeting. John Hoegl made the motion and Lisa Feldman seconded it. The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Joanne Mullaney, Secretary
April 28, 2013

* Appointed members