



EWING GREEN TEAM

Working Towards Building a Sustainable Ewing

OCTOBER 23, 2013 MINUTES

LOCATION: EWING SENIOR AND COMMUNITY CENTER

PRESENT:

Green Team members denoted with an asterisk *

Chris Ahlers
Pete Boughton *
David Byers
Abe Conesa
Mary Corrigan
Don Cox
Karen Culp
Marge Delaney
Lisa Feldman *
Max Graj (Bonner Rep)
John Hoegl *

Emily LaRosa (Bonner Rep)
Mary Jane Leach *
Jenn Keyes-Malone *
Joe Mirabella *
Joanne Mullowney *
Michael Nordquist (TCNJ Bonner Advisor)
JoAnn Povia
Arti Sahni
Paul Steward
Cathie Swango
Julia (Bonner Environmental Team)

INTRODUCTION

The October meeting of the Ewing Green Team was called to order by Pete Boughton at 7:07 pm. Green Team members were asked to approve the September minutes as posted on our website. Since there were no comments or corrections the September minutes were unanimously approved.

Pete announced to the membership that we were officially notified that we have achieved Bronze level Sustainable Jersey certification for 2013. We will be awarded the certificate in conjunction with the New Jersey League of Municipalities luncheon in Atlantic City on November 19th. The mayor will attend to accept it and several Green Team members are registered to attend as well.

There were a number of guests attending the meeting. They included Michael Nordquist, Max Graj, Emily LaRosa, Carissa Mason, Bonner Advisor and Scholars from TCNJ respectively, and David Byers, Don Cox, and Abe Conesa, Mary Corrigan, Karen Culp, Marge Delaney, JoAnn Povia, Arti Sahni, Paul Steward and Cathie Swango, interested Ewing residents. Chris Ahlers from Sustainable Lawrence also attended.

All attendees were asked to introduce themselves and to give their particular “green” interest.

Michael Nordquist made an announcement about a TCNJ program called ***Stronger than the Storm?*** – A forum that will be held on Wednesday, Oct 30th from 4 – 5:30 p.m. at the library auditorium. The public is welcome.



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Pete announced a change in meeting date for November and December. Due to the conflict with the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays the team will meet just once during those months. The next meeting will be on December 4th from 7 – 9 p.m. at the ESCC as usual. The January meeting will be held on the regular 4th Wednesday.

GUEST SPEAKER

Chris Ahlers from Sustainable Lawrence came to advocate about the plastic bag issue. There are bills in the Senate and the Assembly which would support the imposition of a fee for single use plastic bags. This is an issue that some in Sustainable Lawrence are very passionate about and they are trying to drum up additional support. Each resident uses around 600 plastic bags per year. Once used, they don't disappear. They end up in the ocean environment and various marine animals. What can we do? Try to overcome the negative publicity by the plastics industry. The key is educating the public and educating the merchants. We need a grass roots movement to get the word out about the harm they are doing to the environment. Charging more than 10 cents a bag would discourage use. It is necessary that whatever ordinance is passed be over a large area so that local merchants are not disadvantaged. That is why SL is promoting a statewide fee for the bags.

SL has been publicizing the issue with its ***Bag It*** screening. They have the rights to the film and we would be able to borrow it and do a showing. Michael said that it might be possible to show the film at TCNJ. Chris asked that we write our legislators in support of the bills (S812 and A3787). They are also meeting with the MCIA and other townships to promote the issue. Jenn suggested that if we support the passage of the bills that we ask our Council to pass a resolution in support of this effort. We would have to present them with why we would like them to support it.

Chris said that he could supply key links for us to promote it also. There is an online petition that we could post on our website.

TEAM LEADER REPORTS

GARDEN COUNCIL REPORT BY MICHAEL NORDQUIST

The newly elected Garden Council met for the first time on October 16th. They are working on their initial goals. Their first task is establishing by-laws which Michael is going to formalize and pass around to the gardeners to ratify at the next Council meeting. They are then going to work on gardening rules and regulations which they will recommend to the Township in the hope that it will take them into consideration when they formalize rules for next season. They are also going to prioritize a list of concerns that need to be communicated to the township. The need for contact information to be passed to the Council to maintain effective communications was brought up.



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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

Lisa, Pete, Mary Jane and Jenn attended this meeting and will essentially promote “Buy Local” ideas. The group is in a holding pattern at the moment but there may be some promotional items in the spring.

COMMUNITY GARDENING COMMITTEE MEETING

Joanne reported on this meeting that was attended by herself, Mary Jane, Pete and Dave Byers. We participated in a brainstorming session for about 2 ½ hours where all manners of things from garden art contests and contributions, food contributions to organizations feeding the hungry, dinners, garden design and structure were discussed as well as long term visioning. In addition we discussed MJ’s ideas about food hubs that would be of benefit to local farmers as well as providing Ewing residents with more access to local and possibly organic produce.

SHRED 3

Lisa reported that Shred 3 is on schedule at the municipal building for November 30th (Thanksgiving weekend) and she does need volunteers. There isn’t much that volunteers need to do – stuff the bags and hand them out. A show of hands for volunteers was asked for and Cathie Swango, Marge Delaney, Abe, Mary Corrigan and Pete volunteered to help staff the event. We will also send around an electronic sign up using Sign Up Genius a week or so prior to the event.

COMMFEST BY MICHAEL NORDQUIST

Michael reported that CommFest was well attended by volunteers at our table. There were Bonners and Green Team members alike. The survey went well with over 140 participants

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION REPORT BY JOANN POVIA

JoAnn reported on the Ewing Environmental Commission’s participation in CommFest. They had a table next to the GT table with Joe Mirabella’s tree volcano demonstration which proved popular. Also, they really liked the website that MJ had connected them with the ***National Tree Benefits Calculator*** [<http://www.treebenefits.com/calculator>]. With inputs of location, species and tree size, site users will get an understanding of the environmental and economic value trees provide on an annual basis. The Ewing Environmental Commission may go around and do such assessments on personal property in town.

Joe Mirabella also reported that the Township has performed the cleanup work at the newly discovered trail at Banchoff Park and it looks beautiful. So no additional trail cleanup work is needed there. Pete reported that the refurbishment of the Ewing part of the Johnson Trolley Trail is now also largely done.



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RAIN GARDEN UPDATE BY JOHN HOEGL

John reported that he and Pete went to the rain garden at the municipal building last weekend and spent a few hours cleaning up. He felt that the site only needed a couple more hours and did not need student help. Joanne said that we will try to use the student volunteers at the gardens if a work day comes up shortly.

SURVEY

Joanne reported on the survey that was taken at NNO and CommFest. She combined the results into one spread sheet. See Appendix 1. It might appear that the top vote getter received that many votes in NNO and CommFest because of its placement on the survey sheet (alphabetically at NNO and in reverse alphabetical order at CommFest) because in each case that the top location on the sheet produced the greatest number of votes. However, when the results of the two were combined those top 2 vote getters Energy Alternatives and Wildlife and Natural Resources were almost tied with 326 and 316 votes respectively. Artie suggested submitting an article on the survey to the Ewing Observer.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

Pete reported that he and John were invited to speak at the Fraternal Order of Police about the Green Team and he also spoke to a Seniors' group at the ESCC at the invitation of Don Cox. He felt that these extemporaneous outings were successful, but that a PowerPoint accompaniment would enhance them.

Joanne spoke about an outreach effort that has been long in the planning. She would like to institute an electronic newsletter by the end of the year. The first edition could highlight our group's past activities and the Sustainable Jersey certification and then discuss the visioning planned for the coming year. She asked for volunteers to help write it. In addition, she also asked that attendees consider providing her with names and email addresses of their Ewing friends to bolster the initial mailing list. We have about 200+ names and email addresses that she has been collecting in our Gmail account. It was suggested that we include the Observer in the mailing list.

STRATEGIC PLANNING BY MJ LEACH

MJ spoke about the importance of getting everyone on the same page. We want everyone moving forward together. We don't want to start racing forward on our visioning only to find that someone is still tying his shoes. For now, continue working on our individual interest areas and we will move forward next meeting – back to the visioning.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Ewinggreenteam.wordpress.com

Monthly Meetings at Ewing Senior & Community Center, 999 Lower Ferry Rd, Ewing, NJ 08618, 4th Wed. of each month

Contact us: ewinggreenteam@gmail.com



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Jenn said that she wanted to convey a message to the team from Mayor Steinmann. He congratulated the team on achieving accreditation and thanked us for our work. He looks forward to working with us in the future. Likewise Business Administrator Jim McManimon conveyed his congratulations in a phone call to Pete.

HOMEWORK

Study groups should continue to meet independently for their areas of interest and report back at the next monthly meeting.

The close of the meeting was announced at 9:00 p.m. by Green Team Chairperson, Pete Boughton

Respectfully Submitted

Joanne Mallowney, Communications/IT Officer

APPENDIX 1

NNO Vote Tallies				
Category	Top	2nd	3rd	Total
Energy Alternatives	46	9	16	71
Food and Gardening	22	13	21	56
Walking and Biking	17	9	20	46
Healthy Communities	16	9	14	39
Recycling	15	27	16	58
Open Space	10	18	7	35
Wildlife & Natural Resources	8	37	22	67
<u>Local Economic Development</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>30</u>
Total	139	132	131	402

ComFest Vote Tallies				
Category	Top	2nd	3rd	Total
Wildlife & Natural Resources	44	27	10	81
Energy Alternatives	29	21	25	75
Walking and Biking	16	16	12	44
Open Space	15	13	14	42
Recycling	15	18	35	68
Healthy Communities	10	21	11	42
Food and Gardening	9	14	20	43
<u>Local Economic Development</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>34</u>



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Total	146	141	142	429
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Combined Vote Tallies				
Category	Top	2nd	3rd	Total
Energy Alternatives	75	30	41	146
Wildlife & Natural Resources	52	64	32	148
Walking and Biking	33	25	32	90
Food and Gardening	31	27	41	99
Recycling	30	45	51	126
Healthy Communities	26	30	25	81
Open Space	25	31	21	77
<u>Local Economic Development</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>64</u>
Total	285	273	273	831

NNO Weighted Scores				
Category	Top	2nd	3rd	Total
Energy Alternatives	138	18	16	172
Wildlife & Natural Resources	24	74	22	120
Recycling	45	54	16	115
Food and Gardening	66	26	21	113
Walking and Biking	51	18	20	89
Healthy Communities	48	18	14	80
Open Space	30	36	7	73
<u>Local Economic Development</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>50</u>
Total	417	264	131	812

CommFest Weighted Scores				
Category	Top	2nd	3rd	Total Priority Points
Wildlife & Natural Resources	132	54	10	196
Energy Alternatives	87	42	25	154
Recycling	45	36	35	116
Walking and Biking	48	32	12	92
Open Space	45	26	14	85
Healthy Communities	30	42	11	83
Food and Gardening	27	28	20	75
<u>Local Economic Development</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>61</u>
Total	438	282	142	862



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Category	Combined Weighted Scores			Total
	Top	2nd	3rd	
Energy Alternatives	225	60	41	326
Wildlife & Natural Resources	156	128	32	316
Recycling	90	90	51	231
Food and Gardening	93	54	41	188
Walking and Biking	99	50	32	181
Healthy Communities	78	60	25	163
Open Space	75	62	21	158
<u>Local Economic Development</u>	39	42	<u>30</u>	<u>111</u>
Total	855	546	273	1674

