



# EWING GREEN TEAM

*Working Towards Building a Sustainable Ewing*

DECEMBER 4, 2013 MINUTES

LOCATION: EWING SENIOR AND COMMUNITY CENTER

## PRESENT:

Green Team members denoted with an asterisk \*

Lindsay Blanton, AmeriCorps Ambassador

Pete Boughton \*

David Byers

Valorie Caffee \*

Mary Corrigan

George D'Angelo

Georgianne D'Angelo

John Hoegl \*

Cindy Hutchinson

Mary Jane Leach \*

Karen Le Morvan

Joe Mirabella \*

Joanne Mullowney\*

Michael Nordquist, TCNJ Bonner Advisor

Cathie Swango

Mark Wetherbee \*

## INTRODUCTION

The December meeting of the Ewing Green Team was called to order by Pete Boughton at 7:05 pm. Green Team members were asked to approve the October minutes as posted on our website. Mark Wetherbee made a motion to approve them, Valorie Caffee seconded the motion. The October minutes were unanimously approved with no additions or corrections.

There were a number of guests attending the meeting. They included Lindsay Blanton, AmeriCorps representative; Michael Nordquist, Bonner Advisor from TCNJ; and David Byers, Mary Corrigan, Karen Le Morvan, George and Georgianne D'Angelo, Cindy Hutchinson and Cathie Swango, interested Ewing residents.

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

Pete announced that the meeting in January will return to its regular 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month, January 22<sup>nd</sup> from 7 - 9 p.m. at the ESCC. He also said that he was working on the 2013 Annual Green Team report for the Mayor and Council and intended to have it submitted before the end of the year.

## GUEST REMARKS

Lindsay Blanton, this year's AmeriCorps representative introduced herself and spoke about plans that had been made at a meeting with Pete Boughton and Joanne Mullowney to offer rain garden and rain



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barrel workshops this spring. The plan is to offer one of each at the Living Local Expo on March 22<sup>nd</sup> and to offer additional workshops for Ewing residents during Earth Week and on a weekend day in May.

Members of the High School Robotics team attended to present Pete with an award for judging at the Lego Robotics Team regional competition at Ewing HS on November 23.

## TEAM LEADER REPORTS

### GARDEN COUNCIL REPORT BY MICHAEL NORDQUIST

Michael reported that the draft of the bylaws for the Ewing Community Gardens had been approved at a spirited meeting held in November. He planned to finalize them and send them out to the gardeners before the January meeting where they will be voted upon for approval. The Garden Council next plans to work on rules aka guidelines for the gardens to suggest to Administration for implementation. He also plans to meet with Neville Jones from the Parks Department to establish a relationship and plan what we need to do moving forward.

### COMMUNITY EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

Joanne spoke about an outreach effort that has been long in the planning – the Green Team electronic newsletter that she would like to send out by the end of the year. She asked for brief articles for inclusion from the team leaders. A number of committee leaders agreed to send in articles for inclusion. Joe Mirabella agreed to send in a green resolution article, Pete a welcome and recap of achievements, MJ, the vision plan for 2014 and beyond and Jenn would add an article from a Council member's perspective.

### TRAILS AND TRANSPORTATION REPORT

It was reported that the last clean-up of the railroad trail between Ewing/Trenton went well. There were a lot of Ewing volunteers – 34 people. Trenton people were a no show except for Dan Sigmans. This was well publicized in the local papers by Mark. Mark also spoke to the fact that he went by the cleaned area shortly after and that new debris had already accumulated there.

Michael announced that he is meeting with the Greater Mercer TMA to see what can be done about setting up additional shuttle services to and from the college.

### SHRED 3



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Joanne reported on Shred 3 in Lisa's absence. It was held at the municipal building on November 30<sup>th</sup>, an extremely cold day on the holiday weekend. A number of issues arose during the day. These included residents submitting materials that should have been recycled rather than shredded – coloring books, business owners submitting boxes of materials to be shredded - the day was for residential shredding only, the truck was full before the end of the advertised hours, and signage should have been larger and more detailed. Lisa will be submitting a report to Business Administrator Jim McManimon including a number of suggestions including: (1) recommendation for a 4<sup>th</sup> shred day in 2014 since they have proven to be so popular, (2) asking for input regarding date selection since we will be providing some of the manpower, (3) asking for township staff to tell participants when their materials do not meet the criteria for shredding and more. The Goodwill truck was also not well utilized at this Shred Event. Next year we will possibly only request it for warm weather events.

#### RECYCLING/TRASH SUGGESTION

Mark Wetherbee spoke to the issue of trying to save money on trash pickup. He stated that the trucks picking up the trash in town get less than 3 miles per gallon because of all of the starts and stops. He suggested that combining stops would save a lot of gas and money and that he has a friend at Central Jersey Waste who thought that it was a wonderful idea. For example combining the trash of three households at one location would eliminate two of the stops reducing the time and gas spent during trash pickup. He suggested that we go to community/civic organizations for assistance in getting this popularized. He also recommended that we do this with recycling pickup also as a money and fuel saver as too much recycling finds its way into regular trash pickup.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION REPORT

There was no Ewing Environmental Commission report because their meeting did not achieve a quorum.

#### GRANTS

MJ said that she is working with Ewing grant writers Susan Caruso Green and Jeffrey Lischin on the Sustainable Jersey grant due to be submitted by January 26<sup>th</sup>. We would like to apply for a \$10,000 grant for strategic planning sessions in Ewing in 2014. We need to choose a facilitator(s) and interview and use our choice to help us decide what we need to include in the grant request.

#### NEW BUSINESS

Joanne talked about the first Green Team Holiday and Certification celebration to be held on December 13<sup>th</sup> at her home. People who intended to attend used the sign-up sheet to indicate what they intended to bring as their contribution to the pot luck.



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Pete recommended that we elect a 4<sup>th</sup> officer in 2014 in charge of outreach and hospitality, a greeter who would insure that new attendees are welcomed, receive Green Team information, that we find out what their area of interest is and that they are then included in the appropriate committee. John thinks that this should be an ongoing Public Relations job. We could entitle it the Membership Officer. Lisa Feldman and Joe Mirabella were suggested as possible partners for the position, one covering for the other when one cannot be there.

## SUSTAINABLE JERSEY OVERVIEW

Joanne Mullowney presented a PowerPoint slideshow that she had developed from a generic one supplied by Sustainable Jersey to focus on the Ewing Green Team which gave an overview of Sustainable Jersey for newer attendees, a history of our Green Team, and a recapitulation of the actions that led to our certification. The idea was to insure that newer members of the team are up-to-date on these points so that they can more readily move forward with the team next year. This slideshow may also be presented to other Ewing groups to help inform the public.

## MISSION STATEMENT

The Ewing Green Team has never officially drafted its mission statement. Joanne Mullowney also ran a short session on why we need to create one: (1) to define who we are and what we do, (2) to insure that WE are clear about our mission, and (3) to create a framework for evaluating future opportunities. Attendees were asked to contribute their thoughts about what we do – what we offer and who do we do it for as part of a beginning process for crafting our statement. A lively discussion followed and concepts were listed on the flip chart to be considered at the next meeting when we continue crafting our statement.

## CONCLUSION

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

Respectfully Submitted

*Joanne Mullowney, Communications/IT Officer*