



EWING GREEN TEAM

Working Towards Building a Sustainable Ewing

JANUARY 22, 2014 MINUTES

LOCATION: EWING SENIOR AND COMMUNITY CENTER

PRESENT:

Green Team members denoted with an asterisk *

Pete Boughton *
David Byers*
Mary Corrigan
Don Cox
Darryl S. Dixon
Jerry Foster
John Hoegl *
Lisa Feldman*

Jenn Keyes Maloney*
Mary Jane Leach *
Joe Mirabella *
Joanne MULLowney*
Joe Murphy*
Michael Nordquist*
Mayor Bert Steinmann
Cathie Swango
Mark Wetherbee *

INTRODUCTION

The January 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 December minutes as posted on our website. Mark Wetherbee made a motion to approve them, Joe Mirabella seconded the motion. The December minutes were unanimously approved with no additions or corrections.

A number of guests attended the meeting: Mary Corrigan, Don Cox, Darryl S. Dixon, Jerry Foster, and Cathie Swango, interested Ewing residents, as well as Mayor Bert Steinmann.

The 2014 appointees to the Ewing Green Team were sworn in by the Mayor.



Ewinggreenteam.org

Contact us: ewinggreenteam@gmail.com

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



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MAYOR STEINMANN'S REMARKS

Attendants were treated to a brief state of the township address by the Mayor. He first addressed the issue of the numerous snow storms that the township had experienced to date and said that unfortunately, costs for snow removal were mounting. The township is strictly enforcing "no parking in the street" ordinance during this time in order to facilitate plowing. Cars in streets during this time will be given warnings and ticketed. With repeated offences the vehicles will be towed.

The Mayor also addressed the issues of abandoned houses in the Township. The Township will cut the grass and address other safety and appearance issues. They will attempt to contact the owners/bank to warn that regular upkeep is required. These costs will be applied as a lien against the property to be satisfied when a sale is underway. If you know of an abandoned property email the mayor and the Township will investigate.

Technology - as of March 1st all boards and commissions will be hooked up electronically. There will be no more paper documents used. Applicants must supply 2 paper copies. There is an applications currently with HUD to renovate the rest of this property (the ESCC) including enhancing the patio and installing Wi-Fi. The Township is planning on partnering with TCNJ and the schools for computer training classes here and at Hollowbrook.

GM Site - Lennar Corporation, a Fortune 500 company based in Miami, Florida, has been selected as the site developer for the GM property. They have \$1 billion in immediate cash and so will have plenty to infuse into this site. The next ETRA meeting is Wednesday, January 29th at the Municipal Building. A large public meeting will be held soon at the West Trenton Firehouse soon, probably in February. He plans on presenting lots of visuals on what the site will look like. It is to be managed under a PILOT program: 5% of the tax revenues will go to the County 95% will go to Ewing Township. The Mayor is working out a formula to give revenues to the schools also. The Township should see an end to the PILOT agreement and full tax values in approximately 15/16 years. The Mayor thinks that a realistic estimate of the number of new students in our schools will be between 125 and 170 students. The development is not conducive to young families with children. It will include pocket parks, support outdoor dining, art shows and retail establishments. It will be a destination site. There will be a theme, either automotive or air that will reflect the history of the property. The interior will include bike paths and walking trails. It will connect the Church, ESCC, the School for the Deaf and TCNJ. It will cost up to \$700 Million and a full build out will take 5 – 7 years.

The Naval Air Propulsion Site development is still in the works. There is some stubbornness by the developer. But the Mayor and Administration fully intend to enforce a similar vision.

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NJDEP site remediation standards have been enforced. Racer has remediated the property to a restricted use level. Lennar will remediate to non-restricted use level.

GMTMA

Jerry Foster, a West Windsor/Plainsboro Green Team member and employee of the GMTMA, the Greater Mercer Transportation Management Association, spoke about the Bike and Pedestrian Countywide Issues Taskforce under Brian Hughes. The GMTMA promotes/provides transportation choices that are designed to reduce congestion, improve mobility, increase safety, and further sustainability in the Greater Mercer TMA service area. A Complete Streets policy says that whenever a roadway is being redeveloped you must consider more than cars. i.e. bikes, pedestrians, wheelchairs, buses, etc. Jerry spoke about the difficulty of county and state roadways even though they have passed complete streets policies. 80 or so municipalities in the state have a complete streets policy so it is a competitive advantage in applying for grants to have one. Municipalities in Mercer County that have passed complete streets policies are West Windsor, Princeton, Lawrence, Hopewell Borough, and Trenton. GMTMA can help with events and grant writing and more.

OFFICER ELECTIONS

The floor was opened for nominations for candidates for Green Team officers for 2014. Officer positions included the Chair, Vice Chair, Communications/IT Officer, and new Membership Officer. Elections were held immediately following with the following results:

Chair – Pete Boughton

Vice Chair – Mary Jane Leach

Communications/IT Officer – Joanne Mallowney (Mark Wetherbee volunteered to use his local newspaper contacts to assist in getting Green Team space in the papers)

Membership Officer – Joe Mirabella with Lisa Feldman assisting.

TEAM LEADER REPORTS

BONNER REPORT

Michael reported on the progress of the Bonner students. We have a new student working with us for the spring semester – Aygen Hepurker. He will work with Max and guide him since he has already done community mapping.

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COMMUNITY GARDENS

Michael also gave a report on the progress of the Garden Council. The Bylaws and the Guidelines have been worked out and will be sent to last year's gardeners for their voting approval. The vote will be closed at the time of the next Community Gardens meeting on February 19th.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

Joanne reported on the success of the Jan 1 newsletter that was sent to over 240 Gmail contacts. There was a very good open rate - 88/89 people checked it out. She asked that people who wanted any events publicized get their information to her for the next mailing. The general plan is to send it out quarterly with occasional special events editions.

Joanne also passed around a new Green Team publicity brochure and asked for corrections and updates. It appeared to be well received by the membership. She also passed around the new Green Team business cards purchased with the \$2K capacity building grant monies and told Green Team members to each take a few to pass out to possible contacts.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

MJ talked briefly about the \$10K grant that we will be applying for by January 26th. We are planning on using it to hire a facilitator to conduct strategic planning sessions for Ewing in 2014. We need to interview and choose a facilitator in the coming month so that we will be ready to go if we get the grant.

COMMENTS FROM AUDIENCE

Ewing resident Daryl Dixon spoke about his business, ChargLotz USA. It represents/brokers a dual EV/PV Solar/ Storm Water Canopy System with available smart grid technology. The company was founded in 2011 to provide a charging infrastructure and destination for the future of travel. It was registered as a New Jersey Green Company and as a Federal SAM contractor.

CONCLUSION

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

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