



EWING GREEN TEAM

Working Towards Building a Sustainable Ewing

FEBRUARY 26, 2014 MINUTES

LOCATION: EWING SENIOR AND COMMUNITY CENTER

PRESENT:

Green Team members denoted with an asterisk *

Pete Boughton *

Brian Brown

Geraldine Brown

David Byers*

Abe Conesa

Mary Corrigan

David Ensminger

John Hoegl *

Abigail Horowitz

Lisa Feldman*

Jenn Keyes Maloney*

Joanne Mullowney*

Joe Murphy*

Michael Nordquist*

Jeff Passe

Violet Barrett Paterson

Michelle H. Pitts

Paul Shelly

Mark Wetherbee *

INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW OF THE YEAR AHEAD

The February meeting of the Ewing Green Team was called to order by Pete Boughton at 7:03 pm. Green Team members were asked to approve the January minutes as posted on our website. Joe Murphy made a motion to approve them, Dave Byers seconded the motion. The January minutes were unanimously approved with no additions or corrections.

A number of guests attended the meeting: Mary Corrigan, David Ensminger, Abigail Horowitz, Michelle H. Pitts, Paul Shelly, interested Ewing residents, as well as Langhorne PA's Brian and Geraldine Brown and Ewing's Violet Barrett Paterson from Citizens' Campaign and Jeff Passe, new Dean of the College of Education from TCNJ.

Included in Pete's meeting introduction was a historic Green Team overview preparing attendees for the year ahead where the Green Team will be looking to hire a facilitator to assist us in creating a strategic plan and vision for sustainability for Ewing if we receive the \$10K grant as requested in the small grants program from Sustainable Jersey.

STRATEGIC PLANNING OVERVIEW

Michael Nordquist led a brief session on strategic planning for the Green Team. He asked what the goals of the Green Team should be and how we can make them most effective. Members of the



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audience came up with a number of suggestions including (1) energy conservation, (2) reforestation, (3) community education and outreach, (4) water conservation, (5) public awareness, (6) policy practices of the municipality, (7) to make Ewing more environmentally attractive, (8) community building, and (9) watershed quality.

In order to take on these goals we need to have data. Types of data include:

- Statistics
- Community strategic planning
- History – we need to know what already been done.
- Communicating with the public.
- In the area of reforestation, for example, we could use a map of places that you can plant things and recommendations for native species.

We need a good sense of where we are at. The committees will need to investigate where we are now, what's been done, what's good, and what's bad. I.e. if you are trying to address a problem, you need to know what the details of that problem are.

The question came up – is there a way to calculate the carbon footprint of a community? That might be helpful in our research to gather the needed data.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

EWING TOWNSHIP REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY [ETRA] REPORT

Joe Murphy reported that the Township expects to have shovels in the ground this spring at the GM site. It is a 13 year implementation plan. He feels that the Green Team can/should be involved with the development of the site. Mark commented that a lot of developments are done by cost of construction, not environmental soundness.

A public meeting will be announced when further details have been solidified. In the meantime, ETRA meetings are the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. at the municipal building. All are welcome.

COMMUNITY GARDENS AND COMMUNITY ASSET MAPPING

Michael Nordquist also gave a report on the progress of the Garden Council at the Ewing Community Gardens. The Bylaws and the Guidelines have been approved. They will be distributed at the time of sign up to each plot applicant. The Bonners are also continuing to work on the Community Asset Mapping project and have made good progress.

Ewinggreenteam.org

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

Contact us: ewinggreenteam@gmail.com



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EWING ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION REPORT

John Hoegl reported that the Ewing Environmental Commission was slightly interested in ANJEC's Energy Ambassador Program. They are going to ask all interested members of the EC to become energy ambassadors for the Township. This may dovetail with the energy committee's efforts and the two should touch base for possible coordination of efforts.

ENERGY COMMITTEE

John reported on the energy committee's meetings. They plan to work with Tristate Light and Energy as part of the NJ Clean Energy Program. Sandra Torres, the Tristate representative, needs an inventory of the businesses in town in order to inform them of the savings available through the Direct Install program. The committee is preparing a letter which they hope that the mayor will sign to send to these businesses about the upgrades and savings.

The committee is planning a program for a three-pronged outreach to government (Ewing Township), the businesses (as described above) and to residents. They hope to provide energy audits, like Princeton Township did for the cost of \$50 apiece to get full reports.

A major problem with the business portion of this plan is that the program may not be funded after June 30 so businesses must be contacted and commit quickly.

SHRED 1

Shred 1 2014 will take place on March 22nd at the Ewing Municipal Building from 9 to 1. Jenn Keyes Maloney will spearhead this initiative because Lisa Feldman will be on vacation the week prior. Coffee and donuts will be provided. Joanne Mullowney will create an electronic signup using Sign Up Genius and all Green Team members are encouraged to volunteer a couple of hours of their time.

EXPO REPORT

An update on the status of the Living Local Expo was given by a number of EGT representatives involved. The Expo will be held on March 29th at the Armory on Eggerts Crossing in Lawrence, close to the Ewing line. Things are running smoothly despite the bad weather that has hampered the planning meetings. A large turnout is expected.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

Joanne reported that the first ***Environmental Insights*** program, our new film/speaker/discussion series went very well. Our very own Joe Mirabella presented a very well received program on environmental



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enforcement as seen through his own eyes during his long career at the NJDEP. There were 18 people at the event, a very satisfying first effort.

She also reported making a number of connections that will enable the next several evenings of the series.

1. Camille Miller, Executive Director of the NorthEast Organic Farming Association of NJ will present a film, **Food Inc.** and will lead the discussion afterwards on Tuesday, May 27th at 7 p.m. The anticipated venue will be TCNJ – the Education Building. Michael Nordquist will confirm availability and report back. **Food Inc.** is a 2008 American documentary film directed by Emmy Award-winning filmmaker Robert Kenner. The film lifts the veil on our nation's food industry, exposing the highly mechanized underbelly that's been hidden from the American consumer with the consent of our government's regulatory agencies, USDA and FDA. Our nation's food supply is now controlled by a handful of corporations that often put profit ahead of consumer health, the livelihood of the American farmer, the safety of workers and our own environment.
2. The next **Insights** presentation will be on June 10th at 7 p.m., a Tuesday. Americorps Ambassador, Lindsay Blanton will give a presentation on creating a rain garden.
3. The final topic in the pipeline is water. Joanne has a contact with the Sierra Club of Central NJ. Terry Stimpfel would be willing to give a presentation for us on a specific water topic yet to be decided and at a date to be determined.

Joanne asked for volunteers from the Green Team to work with her on this committee to develop the series more fully.

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

CITIZENS' CAMPAIGN PRESENTATION

Violet Patterson gave a presentation on the Citizens' Campaign, a Ewing empowerment group. They will be holding an anti-bullying seminar on March 17th at 7 p.m. at TCNJ's Loser Hall Room 106 with an internationally known speaker George Anthony of PeaceDynamics.com and we are invited to attend. The Citizens' Campaign has a growing membership of active Ewing area residents. The group began in June 2013. Its goal is to empower citizens by working with elected officials and to make our community run better and cost less.

TCNJ SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

Jeff Passe, the new dean of the School of Education at TCNJ spoke to the group about a new specialization in sustainability education at the College. A new curriculum will be created. A 1½ day



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training session will be led by Jamie Cloud at the college on March 7th from 3 – 7 pm and March 21st from 8:30 – 4:30. Ewing Green Team members are invited to attend. Contact his office to make arrangements.

PAUL SHELLY

Paul is a resident of West Trenton and is on the board of Greater Trenton Behavioral Health Care and participates in Surfrider, The Trenton Crop Walk against Hunger and works for the NJ Association of State Colleges. He is interested in town/gown relations and is taking a certificate course in it.

CONCLUSION

The close of the meeting was announced at 8:40 p.m. by Green Team Chairperson, Pete Boughton.

Respectfully Submitted

*Joanne Mallowney
Communications/IT Officer*