



EWING GREEN TEAM

Promoting People, the Planet and Prosperity in Ewing

MAY 28, 2014 MINUTES

LOCATION: EWING SENIOR AND COMMUNITY CENTER

PRESENT

Green Team members denoted with an asterisk *

Pete Boughton *
David Byers*
Mary Corrigan
Lisa Feldman*
Aygen Hepurker
John Hoegl*

Sandy Kimbrough
Michael Nordquist*
Jeff Passe
Jo Ann Povia
Cathie Swango
Mark Wetherbee*

INTRODUCTION

The May meeting was called to order by Pete Boughton at 7:10 pm. Green Team members were asked to approve the April minutes as posted on our website and hot-linked within the meeting reminder email. They were unanimously approved with no additions or corrections.

Several interested Ewing residents attended: Mary Corrigan, Sandy Kimbrough, Jeff Passe, Jo Ann Povia and Cathie Swango.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ENVIRONMENTAL INSIGHTS SERIES

Pete reported on last night's latest ***Environmental Insights*** presentation at TCNJ where the film ***Food, Inc.*** was viewed by approximately 10 attendees. A discussion built around the film was led afterwards by Camille Miller of NOFA (NorthEast Organic Farming Association). The message was very powerful – Most of our food is highly processed and is controlled by 4 major companies. While the turnout was disappointing, the reactions of those who did attend were not. The film tells a powerful story and it appeared that for most of those who attended, it was a new one. The discussion of the film afterwards was also enlightening and added a lot to the experience of those who attended. It did seem that most of the people who came wanted to linger and discuss.

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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The next ***Environmental Insights*** presentation, ***How to Design and Implement a Rain Garden in Your Landscape***, will be held Tuesday, June 10th at Hollowbrook from 7:00 – 8:30 PM. AmeriCorps Ambassador Lindsay Blanton will present using materials created by Rutgers University.

ANNIVERSARIES OF GREEN TEAM AND RACHEL CARSON

May 27th was also the 5 year anniversary of the Ewing Green Team. Sandy suggested an anniversary photo of the Green Team. This could be taken at the going away party for Mary Jane on June 4th. Additionally, the 27th was the 107th birthday of Rachael Carson, whose book “Silent Spring” was a wake up call for environmental awareness in 1962.

COMMUNITY CONVERSATION OF JUNE 7TH

Mike and Pete commented on our coming Saturday, June 7th initial Community Conversation on sustainability at TCNJ (8:30 am – 1 pm). Mike is arranging with several Bonner scholar volunteers to help in his likely absence due to the pending birth of his first child. Pete noted that 50 people have signed up so far, and that we need to follow up with people who have not responded. A planning meeting is needed to organize all activities. Mary will provide a list of action items to Pete who will be meeting with Mary Jane and John on Friday morning, May 30. A detailed to-do list will be generated from this meeting. Some work assignments will be determined. Monday, June 2nd & Wednesday, June 4th (post-party) were offered as follow-up meeting dates but the consensus was to avoid the extra meeting in favor of hands-on and online efforts.

Pete asked that all GT members and attendees help at the visioning event wherever necessary – from helping caterers to reining in lengthy or negative conversations. We will also try to get the thoughts from some of people who cannot attend but are interested in being informed using an online survey. There is potential for a sustainability plan for Ewing from this conference.

2ND SHREDDING EVENT

The 2nd Shredding Event will take place this Saturday, May 31 (9:00 AM – 1:00 PM) at town hall. More help is needed. One additional person volunteered.

Mark raised the issue that only Ewing residents are allowed to participate. Lisa stated that checking drivers licenses to verify Ewing residence is not possible without additional assistance.

FAREWELL TO MARY JANE

A ***Farewell to MJ*** supper party will be held on Wednesday, June 4th at Lisa Feldman’s house (96 Trenton Ave.) Lisa will provide salad & desserts. Pete will provide pizzas. RSVP is needed – Lisa will provide information so that Pete can send out the RSVP in the next day or two. A cup for donations was

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suggested for people who do not bring any food or drink items to the party. Jo-Ann suggested that the Environmental Commission should be invited.

PRESENTATION TO THE PLANNING BOARD

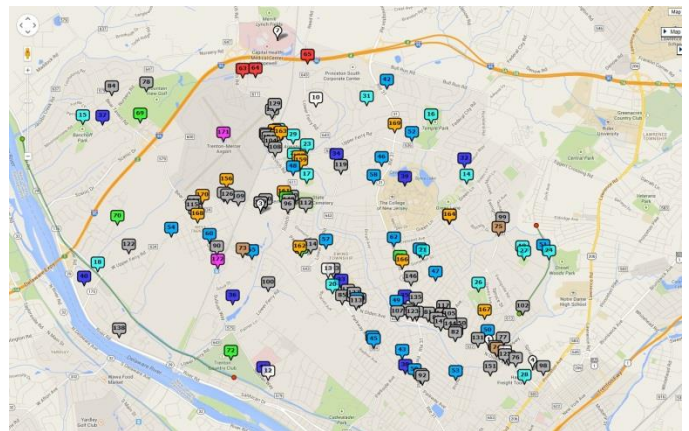
At the Planning Board Meeting on Thursday, June 5 @ 7:00 PM (Pete is a member), as urged by Township Planner Chuck Latini, Mary Jane and Joanne will lead a discussion on our intentions for the sustainability visioning process from the audience. This is the fourth and final item on their agenda. Jo-Ann (also a Planning Board member) raised the question "Do we need support from the Board?" Pete and Jo-Ann need to discuss.

COMMUNITY GARDENS

Mike affirmed that the gardens are up and running. Most plots have been reserved. There is a picnic table, free wood chips for mulching or for the paths, a porta-potty, and the Green Team demonstration beds are being tended. 15 – 20 people attended the last Ewing Community Gardens Association (ECGA) meeting which was held on Wednesday evening, May 21st at the garden.

COMMUNITY ASSET MAPPING PROJECT

TCNJ Bonner student Aygen Hepurker attended to illustrate his progress on the online Ewing map found at http://www.communitywalk.com/ewing/nj/ewing_township_nj/map/1661721. For those wishing to examine and possibly contribute to the map, the username is Ewinggreenteam@gmail.com and the password is available upon request. Aygen Hepurker, one of the Bonner students working on the project, presented his research on asset mapping in Ewing via a PowerPoint presentation on his laptop, which he later emailed to Pete. He stated it is an important resource for Ewing residents, e.g., it helps residents find like-minded people, identifies areas for improvement, provides information on parks, contacts for waste management, businesses and services, etc. It also includes major resources like hospitals that are not in Ewing. By hovering over specific items, a pop-up window appears that provides information about the asset and a link to the best website for this asset when available. This project is still in the works. It has a lot of preliminary data (172 unique entries) but more entries can still be added. The project will also yield the ability to separate data out in layers as needed. It will also need to be updated periodically.



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REDEVELOPMENT AT GM

The coming redevelopment of the GM site by Lennar was discussed by Pete, who cautioned that he had visited a new Lennar development in Burlington with which he had not been impressed. He said however that Chuck Latini had assured him that Township officials were working with Lennar to assure the quality of the GM redevelopment.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Jeff asked the purpose of the Environmental Commission which was answered by Jo-Ann. It was noted that the EC is an advisory board, not a regulatory one. Pete added that one successful EC initiative was the issuance of a **Community Forestry Plan** prepared under a grant. Another in progress has been applying for a grant for a Tree Replacement Project for trees in Ewing's parks that have been lost to disease and storms. An attendee asked if there was a tree ordinance in Ewing. Jo-Ann stated that there was a tree ordinance drafted, but it was not supported. Mark stated his objection that it might be expensive for the homeowners. It was noted that Ewing has a lower percentage of tree canopy than some neighboring towns.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Sandy Kimbrough, an attendee at the viewing of **Food, Inc.** was introduced. She lives near the college and has marketing and PR experience. She hopes to help us bring the Green Team message to a more diverse audience.

CONCLUSION

The close of the meeting was announced at 8:20 p.m. by Pete Boughton.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cathie Swango for Joanne Mallowney, Communications/IT Officer