



EWING GREEN TEAM

Promoting People, the Planet, and Prosperity in Ewing

AUGUST 24, 2016 MINUTES

LOCATION: EWING SENIOR AND COMMUNITY CENTER

PRESENT

Pete Boughton*
Evan Crumiller*
Lisa Feldman*
Joanne Mullowney*

Michelle Pitts
Caroline Steward*
Sarah Steward*
Mark Wetherbee*

Green Team members denoted with an asterisk *

INTRODUCTION

Joanne called the meeting to order at 6:32. The minutes from June and July were voted upon and unanimously approved. The group welcomed Michelle Pitts, a township resident and frequent visitor at Ewing Green Team meetings.

DISCUSSION

Joanne sent around for all to see a thoughtful thank you note that our former TCNJ Bonner student intern Aygen Hepurker sent to the team. We had sent a graduation gift of a \$100 gift card to a restaurant as thank you for his years of service.

Joanne issued a reminder the Sustainable Jersey recertification deadline of September 11th is quickly approaching. Pete has already completed his project and it has been submitted as has Caroline's.

REPORTS ON SUSTAINABLE JERSEY ACTION SUBMISSIONS

NO SMOKING ORDINANCE

The Green Team got credit points for The No-Smoking Ordinance and will get the final ordinance from Kim Macellero from the Township. We are getting additional signage, but Sarah is not sure if we will get it in time for the September 11th deadline. We will send a picture or two of the signage that is already in place.

GREEN BUSINESS RECOGNITION PROGRAM

Evan Crumiller's Green Business Recognition Program is just about complete, just waiting for the final decision about the stickers. It has been difficult to get these because of the low quantity many companies are not interested in taking this project.



EWING GREEN TEAM

Promoting People, the Planet, and Prosperity in Ewing

Sustainable Jersey wants a list of businesses and what actions they have accomplished. Still to do: (1) Chuck Latini needs to confirm that none of the businesses have outstanding permits. (2) Evan needs to physically visit and approve all of the businesses that submitted applications for recognition. He also needs to update the businesses actions in the spreadsheet for documentation for Sustainable Jersey submission. (3) We hope that the recognition awards will be presented at the first Council Meeting in September on the 13th. We need to make sure that it is on the Council agenda. In addition, Evan will work on the proclamations honoring each business, as well as writing up an article for Observer submission and our website about the businesses being recognized.

ERI/NRI

The Planning Board meeting of September 1st includes Conservation Plan for review, not the NRI. Joanne will send Chuck Latini an email asking whether this was a misprint and making sure it is on the agenda.

CREATIVE ASSETS SURVEY AND OPEN PUBLIC MEETING

Lisa updated the group with the status of the Open Public Meeting for Ewing Arts on Thursday, August 25th. The Arts Commission will be represented by Jennifer Winn who will 'emcee' the event with Jennifer Keyes-Maloney and Joanne Mullaney speaking for the Administration and the Green Team and Sustainable Jersey's role in the process. Pete, Caroline, and Evan say they will all try to attend to support the joint mission of the Green Team and Arts Commission working together to support the Arts in Ewing.

HOME ENERGY AUDITS

Pete was asked to speak on the status of the Energy Committee: Currently we are hoping to complete the home audit process when the final company is confirmed who will do the audits. It looks like Princeton Air will be the final selection. John Hoegl spoke to the Township attorney about this, but not sure the final outcome of their discussion. We won't be able to move forward until the company is confirmed.

ENERGY OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

The Energy Committee had 2 outreach programs: 1) Glendale at Jennifer Keyes-Maloney's home and 2) Kiwanis presentation. Pete felt positive that one person will follow through. Another benefit they met an Energy specialist who was able to update the Energy Committee on what programs are current and what are no longer available.

ONGOING PROJECTS

BIKE RIDE

We have the bike permit for the bike ride on September 17th and have submitted it for Council approval for the first Council meeting in September. We have a cut-off of 100 riders. The Mayor attended the Bike Committee meeting and says there should not be any same day registration for the bike ride because of the Township's liability insurance for the ride. We thought this had been resolved or we would not have gone ahead with the ride. Other bike rides have same day registration without problems; we are concerned about why this seems



EWING GREEN TEAM

Promoting People, the Planet, and Prosperity in Ewing

to be a problem here in Ewing. If day of registration was not to be allowed we would have stated this in the advertising; this needs to be resolved as soon as possible.

Arrangements have been made for online payment for bike registrants and Pete has confirmed that this is working.

The committee has been very successful with fundraising. We are double last year's amount. We currently have \$1600 and are expecting two additional checks.

NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATIONS

Caroline's Neighborhood project has received a lot of positive feedback. It seems the feedback she is getting from most people is that organizing a 'central' group made of members of various neighborhood organizations would be of most value. This would help disseminate information and keep various organizations current on what is going on in the Township, i.e. what programs are being offered.

SOLAR ENERGY

We are finding that there are a good many people who are interested in learning more about solar energy. There are a lot of companies currently selling solar power and it would be extremely helpful for people to understand what is involved in order to make good educated decisions.

This was discussed at the last Mercer County Sustainability Coalition meeting on August 13th. It was felt that the Coalition in partnership with the County could host an informative program on solar energy, or maybe this would be a good Environmental Insights program. There are a lot of myths and confusing information. We want to help people make the smartest decisions – environmentally as well as financially.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED IN SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER

Volunteers – we have several big events coming up and we are going to need volunteers: the Bike Ride, The Scarecrow Contest and the Fall Shred Day.

THE ANJEC ENVIRONMENTAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

ANJEC (Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions) offers an annual award program that recognizes exceptional projects carried out by environmental commissions and groups. Projects begun after 1/1/14 and completed by 8/31/16 are eligible for nomination for a 2016 award.

Joanne would like to nominate our Scarecrow Contest for ANJEC's 2016 Environmental Achievement Award. This is a great combination of creative placemaking and recycling.

The awards will be presented on Friday, September 30th, at the ANJEC Environmental Congress. Award winners are invited to bring an exhibit for display at the Congress.

Evaluation criteria:

- ❑ Project impact, originality, educational value, innovation, and response to a need
- ❑ Clarity of application, supporting information



EWING GREEN TEAM

Promoting People, the Planet, and Prosperity in Ewing

She and Lisa will work on our submission.

NEW BUSINESS

HOLIDAY PARTY

Holiday Party – the Big Room is already reserved for the 1st Wednesday in December (7th). Last year we had our party in the Board Room and it was rather tight so we reserved early last year. We have the party early in December because we don't have a meeting in November because of Thanksgiving and no regular December meeting because of Christmas.

PUBLICITY

We suggested to Bill Sanservino of the Ewing Observer that our Silver certification would make a great cover story for December. We will get in touch with him after we learn our award level for certain.

NEW GREEN TEAM NOMINEES/NEXT YEAR

Thinking ahead to the New Year; we will once again have an additional meeting for our retreat early in January before our regular monthly meeting. We also have one vacancy on the team. Garry Keel has been a great asset on the bike committee and has also submitted for recognition as a Ewing Green Business awardee. He is a strong contender if he would be interested. We should all be thinking of anyone who is interested in joining our efforts in the next couple of months and ask them to submit their resumes to Administration for review.

ENVIRONMENTAL INSIGHTS

Jay Watson of the D&R Greenway Land Trust will be our featured speaker at our October meeting. He is VP of the land preservation organization. The September speaker is supposed to be Dennis Nettleton, Business Administrator of the Ewing Public Schools, reporting on their sustainability initiatives, but we will need to select a new month because he is unable to make our September 28th meeting. We considered changing our meeting date but too many members have conflicts.

EAB GRANT

Joanne Mullowney, Lee Farnham and Bill Brash have begun meeting regularly to work on the \$20K tree grant. It has been a slow start since everyone's schedule is so busy.

As a recap, the Rutgers Study surveyed the ash trees in Ewing; that were within 10 feet of the road and accessible. They determined that 894 trees showed signs of EAB infestation. However, this is not all of the ash trees in Ewing. The survey does not include those beyond the 10' from the road and those on private property.

They estimated in their report that just to deal with the 894 trees it would cost between \$1.2-1.4 Million. The point of our grant was to develop partnerships to help manage the problem – i.e. Rutgers, Mercer County, Shade Tree Commission, etc. Our first step is to inventory all of the ash trees for their condition. It would be ideal if we could use the database of trees that Rutgers already has from the study. We would like to



EWING GREEN TEAM

Promoting People, the Planet, and Prosperity in Ewing

synchronize our conditional findings of the 894 trees on public land with their database. Once we have a complete picture of all the ash trees, we will present those findings to our possible partners at a meeting in early November. We are also planning for a public meeting for homeowners on the issue.

In addition, 600 trees are being planted to replace trees for the Scudder Falls Bridge project under the No Net Loss Program. It would be good to coordinate. Bill Brash will also come up with recommended trees to replace our affected Ash population.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Michelle Pitts asked how she could find out what the Green Team has accomplished. Joanne referred her to the Strategic Plan on our website.

CLOSING

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa K. Feldman