



EWING GREEN TEAM

Promoting People, the Planet and Prosperity in Ewing

FEBRUARY 2017 MINUTES

LOCATION: EWING SENIOR AND COMMUNITY CENTER

PRESENT

Green Team members denoted with an asterisk *

Malissa Arnold
Pete Boughton
Lee Bouton
Barbara Brezak
Tim Bruchez
Dan Burke
David Byers
Evan Crumiller*
Wendy Dunham

Sue Du Wendrzycki
Lee Farnham
Lisa Feldman*
Russ Freda
Heidi Furman
Andrew Garcia
John Hoegl*
Bernadette Housel
Charlie Maack

D. Marinelli
Ron and Mary Anne Midura
Sam Missimer
Joanne Mullowney*
Michelle Pitts
John Ryan
Bill Walto
Mark Wetherbee*
Cait Versella

INTRODUCTION

The February 22, 2017 meeting was called to order by Joanne Mullowney at 6:40. Green Team members were asked to approve the January minutes as posted on our website and hot-linked within the meeting reminder email. They were unanimously approved with no additions or corrections.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Joanne announced that there would be another ***Environmental Insights*** series presentation at the March meeting and invited attendees to attend when Professor Michael Nordquist, Director of the Center for Engaged Learning and Research at TCNJ and our Ewing Green Team Co-chair, will speak about Environmental Justice issues in our communities. Advocates for Environmental Justice attempt to ensure that no group of people bears a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial, governmental and commercial operations or policies.

ENVIRONMENTAL INSIGHTS SERIES PRESENTATION

Certified Tree Experts Bill Brash and Bob Wells will present a program for homeowners on the threat that the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) presents in Ewing and East of the Mississippi (generally) to our native Ash species, what to look for and what can be done to save our ash trees.

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 US currently has nearly 9 billion Ash trees which were the tree of choice to replace the America Elm which was damaged due to the spread of Dutch Elm Disease of the 1960s. New Jersey has an estimated 24.7 Million trees. The Emerald Ash Borer is a very small boring insect that eats the nutrient supply system of the ash tree. They are an iridescent green, with bronze back wings. Their larvae distinctively have 10 bell-shaped segments. The two most physically identifiable signs of an infestation are the insect's D-shaped exit hole, and the S-shaped galleries found under the bark. However, since these exit holes are near the top of the tree and branch junctions, one of the first evidences one may have of an infestation is that woodpeckers are attracted to the larvae. The EAB female can lay 75-90 eggs a year, and there is a 90% survival rate, which equates to an exponential growth rate.

Ash trees infected by the Emerald Ash Borer create a risk for public safety because as they die, they turn brittle and break apart easily. Their removal is dangerous and expensive. Because of these issues, a response plan has been developed. The response plan to curb the spread of EAB begins with locating and identifying infestations, determining the responsibility for treatment, scheduling and managing the treatments, and providing information to residents so that important decisions can be made. Essentially, the two biggest choices begin with choosing to treat the tree, or remove the tree. Removal must be by a trained professional as the brittle wood of a dying ash can shatter and cause harm. Treatment for the tree comes in many options such as injecting the soil or the tree, spray for the trunk and branches, or granular treatments. Each method has differing schedules, cost, professional involvement and environmental impacts.

For further information, please go to www.emeraldashborer.info, www.ashalert.osu.edu, www.eabindiana.info or look up information using the Perdue University or at the National Tree Benefits EAB Cost Calculators. Local resources can be found at http://www.state.nj.us/dep/parksandforests/forest/community/Emerald_Ash_Borer.htm, <http://www.nj.gov/agriculture/divisions/pi/prog/emeraldashborer.html>, and <http://www.nj.gov/agriculture/divisions/pi/prog/eabcontacts.html>

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ARTS

A poster contest was proposed for Arbor Day. This project could also coincide with the environmental commission's efforts for Ewing to become a tree city.

SUSTAINABLE BUSINESSES

Checklists will be started in the month of March.

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COMMUNITY GARDENS

Registration begins March 1st at the Ewing Clerks Office for returning gardeners. Plots for new gardeners become available on March 15th.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

- Annual report of the Mercer County Sustainability Coalition was just published.
- The Ewing Green Team will apply for a Sustainable Jersey \$2k capacity building grant. We need a resolution in support from Council this coming Tuesday night to submit with the grant.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Reminder - Green Fair – Saturday, March 18 - need volunteers – will send around Sign Up Genius
- Arbor Day Celebration?
- Right Tree, Right Place, Right Way Seminar to be offered on March 31st about tree planting tips, the EAB, and ash tree re-use by the Hopewell Valley Arts Commission. – Free, please see <http://njtreefoundation.org/2017/02/free-right-tree-right-place-seminar-3/>, for more information.
- Discussion with Andrew Garcia from the Watershed about a rain barrel workshop, possibly at the end of May (May 20th?) Some rain barrels would be provided
- A concerned citizen asked the EGT about the work on the bridge, the estimated impact on the river and flooding issues with storm drains. We look forward to discussing more information about this topic soon.
- Heidi Furman discussed the center courtyard at the community center. She plans on creating a pollinator garden and using wildflowers. Possibly we could interest the West Trenton Garden Club. Dan Burke, a landscape architect from the Ewing Environmental Commission is interested in becoming involved and Ted Forst is responsive.)

CONCLUSION

The close of the meeting was announced at 8:45 by Joanne Mullaney.

Respectfully Submitted,

Malissa Arnold, Secretary

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