



EWING GREEN TEAM

Promoting People, the Planet, and Prosperity in Ewing



APRIL 2017 MINUTES

LOCATION: EWING SENIOR AND COMMUNITY CENTER

PRESENT

Green Team members denoted with an asterisk *

Evan Crumiller*

Lisa Feldman*

John Hoegl*

Joe Mirabella

Joanne Mullowney*

Michael Nordquist*

Michelle Pitts

David Schroth*

Caroline Steward*

Mark Wetherbee*

Cait Versella

INTRODUCTION

Co-Chair Joanne Mullowney called the April 26th meeting to order at 6:40. Green Team members were asked to approve the March 22, 2017 meeting minutes as posted on our website and hot-linked within the meeting reminder email. They were unanimously approved with no additions or corrections, Lisa approved, Evan 2nd. Minutes approved.

ENVIRONMENTAL INSIGHTS SERIES PRESENTATION

Joe was scheduled to give his presentation what it means to be an environmentalist at our May meeting. But, we may need to rethink this. We would like to get the public to attend this and we have little time to advertise at this point. Since Joe has two presentations that ideally go together 'Intro to Ecology' or 'What does Ecology Mean?' and then the second part is 'What have we done to the ecology of the world?' Why don't we do these for September and October meetings? This will leave enough time to advertise and it seems more people attend meetings in the fall than the warmer months.

A representative from The Watershed will present at our June meeting on their River Friendly program. We will continue our outreach for the year as this seems to help bring in people.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ARTS

Lisa Feldman is collaborating on a project called 'yarn bombing' with the Arts Commission and Art Has No Boundaries. 'Yarn Bombing' is a type of urban graffiti, or street art, that is a colorful display of knitted or crocheted yarn or fiber rather than standard medium such as paint or chalk. This is very versatile and is usually



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mounted outside. It can be created elsewhere and then artistically attached or can be crafted on site. This would be a great community-wide project that could get lots of people involved.

Lisa is coordinating all the details. She has a crochet teacher willing to come to Ewing to teach crochet and is ready to send out a survey to the (3) different groups to confirm level of interest and commitment. Hopefully the classes can be held at the Community Center, if not HomeFront offers free space.

The goal is to get enough people involved to do several outside art installations and ideally get the community involved. This should be a good summer project.

Also in the works is having a 'kids' arts project during the summer. A jewelry crafts person has offered to come teach a wiring art project that will again be a good collaborative effort between our Green Team the Arts Commission and Art Has No Boundaries.

BIKE COMMITTEE

Bide Ride is moving forward with the two major proponents Gary Keel and Pete Boughton. It's going to coordinate with Prostate Cancer Awareness Month and will be held during CommFest on September 23rd.

SUSTAINABLE BUSINESSES

Evan Crumiller has gotten the program well under way. Last year he got a lot of the groundwork done so it's much easier this year. He has already given out nine (9) applications to businesses in Ewing who are good prospects for incorporating green practices into their operations. So far, he has given applications to a car wash, a laundromat, and a couple of restaurants. He is also going to all last year's companies who were interested in the Direct Install program. It was also suggested he try to go to Elements hotel.

Last year Evan had several students helping him with the program but so far he has been doing everything himself. But in thinking about getting students; at this time of the year they are getting ready to leave for the year. However, it will be easier to get students to help because he has a script for them to follow.

COMMUNITY GARDENS

Cait said the clean-up day went very well and the gardens are looking great. Both main paths are laid out, some flowers and raised beds have been planted; the non-organic section is ready to be tilled; and lots of cardboard was laid down with mulch. The huge mulch pile has been greatly reduced.

ENERGY

John Hoegl has arranged a meeting with Sandra Torres, the Outreach Director at Tri-State Light and Energy. She is in charge of NJ's Clean Energy Program's Direct Install to replace and upgrade energy and lighting in small to medium businesses. The meeting will be on Wednesday, May 10th, at 1:00 at Michael's Diner on Route



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1 and Franklin Corner Road. John is asking Evan, Pete, and Mark to the meeting and if anyone else is interested to discuss current status of program.

There seems to be a problem with communication and follow through with working with Sandra Torres and Tri State so hopefully the meeting will help resolve these issues to help make this program more successful.

A suggestion was made to try to contact some of the new building construction going on in Ewing such as the WaWa or the new Walgreen's. These might be good opportunities to introduce the Green Team and what we are trying to do to new businesses coming into Ewing.

Sustainable Jersey is in the process of changing the residential Energy Star program so right now we are not working on the residential side.

Another project is trying to work with the Township on the energy Benchmarking. One of the obstacles are the multiple meters and bills that must be consolidated in order to work on this but Ewing uses 3rd party energy suppliers and PSE&G will not consolidate the billing under these circumstances.

NEIGHBORHOOD CAMPAIGN

Caroline Steward is using the latest map from 1976 to organize the neighborhoods.

Caroline was contacted by Ian, a student working with Bonners at TCNJ, to help find community clean-ups and was making calls and trying to coordinate their volunteer efforts. She found out that Ted Forst and Jim McManimon were also already working on this. It gets frustrating and a waste of time when different people are working on the same efforts and there is no central communication network to keep track of this.

Some students helped with the annual clean-up at the community gardens. And some students did some work at Hollowbrook.

One successful on-line communication network throughout the Township is the 'Next Door' app. It is in many neighborhoods and many overlap. What if there was an App for short-term events such as our annual expo or getting people engaged in special effort? This would probably be a good way to engage younger people in Ewing.

REPORTS FROM OTHER BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

ETRA AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Neither had anything new to report.

PLANNING BOARD



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Walmart is moving forward. It is not the Board's place to discourage; their role is to discuss redevelopment and how to operate within correct boundaries.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

SUSTAINABLE JERSEY CAPACITY BUILDING GRANT

We're disappointed that we have not heard yet about the \$2,000 capacity building grant from Sustainable Jersey. They are behind schedule because of so many applications that they received. Unfortunately, a couple of projects we have discussed are dependent on some of the money from that grant so we need to know whether or not we will be getting this before we can proceed.

RAIN BARREL WORKSHOP

One example is our rain barrel workshop scheduled for June 3rd. We want to place an ad, but we don't know if there will be a fee or if this will be free to the first people to sign up. We believe we can get 30 rain barrels for free from the Watershed, but we need to purchase the accessories like the screen and the faucet. If we don't get the grant, we would have to put in the ad the cost of the workshop for participants.

COLLABORATIVE PROJECT WITH THE EAGLE SCOUTS

The Green Team has been working with a local Boy Scout, Patrick Otey (Miss Amy's son) who wants to do a Plastic education project for his eagle badge. He plans to station scouts at ShopRite on a Saturday morning to reach out to shoppers while on line and hand out 500 reusable bags. His aim is to educate them about reducing, reusing and recycling plastic supermarket bags. He will create an educational flyer about the issue to hand out. He also will ask them to take a pledge to reduce their plastic usage which will be available on the Ewing Green Team website. Mercer County is supplying 175 bags and Ewing Township will supply 325.

NATIONAL TAKE BACK DAY

National Take Back Day for prescription drugs is April 25th and will be held at the Firehouse on Pennington Road. Ewing also participates in Project Medicine Dropbox which is at the Ewing Police Station. There is also a drop box at TCNJ's security for dropping off expired or unused medicines.

RECYCLING NOTE

Recycling buckets are available at the Public Works on Scotch Road.

IT'S ALL ABOUT TREES

It was suggested that Ewing pass an ordinance to stop Tree 'Volcanoeing'. This practice involved placing too much mulch too deep up and around the lower bark of the tree. This eventually kills the tree. It create a moist, warm haven for mice, bacteria, insects and fungus. Landscapers are notorious for doing this even after



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being told not to do it. Perhaps we should approach Jennifer Keyes-Malone to get her input to see if this is feasible. Enforcement would be extremely difficult.

The best way to deal with this is to educate the public. It was suggested that someone write an article for the Observer. We could also promote at National Night Out and CommFest. We could have a theme, ***It's All About Trees***, and display information about Emerald Ash Borer, and volcanoeing

NEW PROJECT – WELCOME BOOKLET

A Ewing Welcome Booklet that was one of the suggestions that came out of our public meetings has always been something that we have wanted to pursue. Caroline Steward has offered to take this project on. There is a lot of the information that would be of value to have in this document already available. Suggestions were: • history • parks • schools • Elected Officials • Transportation • Churches • Cultural Assets • Neighborhoods • Artists • Entertainment • Recycling • Medical Facilities • Farmer's Markets. Please get in touch with Caroline if you would like to participate. Deadline – we would like to conclude this project by the end of the year.

CONCLUSION

The close of the meeting was announced at 8:00.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa Feldman, Acting Secretary