



# EWING GREEN TEAM

*Promoting People, the Planet, and Prosperity in Ewing*



May 24, 2017 Minutes

Location: Ewing Senior and Community Center

## PRESENT

Green Team members denoted with an asterisk \*

Malissa Arnold  
Evan Crumiller\*  
Lisa Feldman\*  
Heidi Furman  
John Hoegl\*

Joe Mirabella\*  
Joanne Mullowney\*  
David Schroth\*  
Caroline Steward\*  
Mark Wetherbee\*

## INTRODUCTION

The May 24, 2017 meeting was called to order by Joanne Mullowney at 6:40. 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, Mark approved, Joe 2<sup>nd</sup>.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### RAIN BARREL WORKSHOP

The Rain Barrel Workshop, run in cooperation with the AmeriCorps Watershed Ambassador, Andrew Garcia, is scheduled for Saturday, June 3rd. Andrew has collected 30 rain barrels from a number of companies for free. Joanne reached out to Rutgers and they supplied a parts list which priced the hardware at \$8-9 each. The registration fee was set at \$10 each. 17 people have registered so far.

### BAG IT EWING PROJECT

We are coordinating with Patrick Otey on an Eagle Scout Project planned for June that would involve Scouts bagging groceries at ShopRite of Ewing (and possibly other stores) in reusable bags, and distributing further information on the harmful effects of plastic bag usage. The Scouts plan on conducting a survey about plastic bag usage and will give us the data from their survey.

### SUSTAINABLE JERSEY CAPACITY BUILDING GRANT

It was announced that we did not get the \$2,000 grant from Sustainable Jersey and members expressed concerns about funding the projects in the pipeline and some of the items that we had in the grant budget. These included Scarecrow Contest prizes, Ewing Green Team informational pamphlets, a new logo for the Green Business Recognition project, website renewals and more. Lisa researched some options and suggested



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trying to locate a fiscal sponsor. It is when a 501c3 accepts responsibility for the fiscal needs of another group. This may be used as a stop gap measure and can be short, medium or long term in nature. A lingering question is how will we accomplish our projects and goals with there is no budget to work with. Joanne said that she would talk with Administration about funding of our goals for this year and a request for a line in the budget.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### ARTS

Lisa Feldman has arranged a Yarn Bombing course for members interested in promoting the arts thru creative projects. A crochet instructor will be conducting classes to teach introductory crochet. Arts Commission and Art Has No Boundaries members have expressed interest and will be participating with EGT as well. Lisa will also be attending some Creative Placemaking seminars in June.

### SUSTAINABLE BUSINESSES

Evan Crumiller reported that nine surveys were distributed two weeks ago, and ten more went out this week. No responses have been received yet. Recognition is planned at the September meeting. It was suggested that we submit OPRA requests to the Clerk's office to identify businesses that have completed green construction projects that we could approach.

### ENERGY

John Hoegl reported that the meeting with Sandra Torres with Tri-State energy has been postponed. Sustainable Jersey staff met with representatives from all the major Gas companies in New Jersey. Sustainable Jersey is deciding whether they want to keep the Home Performance with ENERGY STAR Municipal Program action with its dedicated, exclusive energy auditor. There were 150 energy audits submission, with 70 complete. They found that towns found it hard to complete the full 20 point requirement due to political ramifications. Part of the problem is keeping the energy audit program feasible and to "fit" each township.

John Hoegl said that without the exclusivity requirement, Ewing might have better participation and possibly have more emphasis on the nature of the audit, possibly an energy saving program with a vetted group of home auditors. Energy benchmarking for the Township facilities remains a goal.

### NEIGHBORHOOD CAMPAIGN

During the April meeting Caroline Steward volunteered to lead creation of the Welcome Booklet as part of the Neighborhood Campaign following Joanne's presentation and "ask" about the Middletown booklet. She reviewed their welcome booklet again. It is an excellent guideline for what we would like to create for Ewing. She and Joanne took notes and compiled a list of possible contents for our booklet. Her Neighborhood Campaign seems like a natural fit for this project and would also unite the group in a goal. Neighborhood organizations could each submit information that highlights their roles and activities. We should also approach other community organizations to submit information about their activities and role in Ewing. Another suggestion was to reach out to realtors to see what they have already collected for their clients. If they don't



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currently hand out any materials this might be of interest to them. We should also include information on the EGT and sustainability outreach to new residents. The goal for completion is by January 2018.

Mark mentioned that the Kiwanis Club is surveying the community parks for a "Get Out of the House" initiative. Neighborhood histories should be collected- some examples were using a neighborhood's experience during hurricane Sandy.

## REPORTS FROM OTHER BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS AND OLD/NEW BUSINESS

### EMERALD ASH BORER GRANT

The planting of the new trees will begin soon. The cost for this aspect of the grant is \$15,500. (The cost includes tree, planting and 1 year guarantee). There are 91 bare root trees total ordered. The plan includes planting trees at the ESCC, Incarnation Church, the detention basin at the municipal building and on the median on Olden Ave.

Bill Brash is working on completing the survey and adding additional data for the Ash trees on municipal properties identified in the Rutgers RAST report. This will enable us to come up with a management plan for the Township Ash trees – which trees need come be removed and in what order, what level of danger the tree presents and which agency (PSE&G, the County, Ewing Twp.) might be responsible for that removal. The plan would also identify trees that might be worth saving via treatments. There was a brief discussion on tree removal ordinances on private property. There is currently no ordinance regarding such on private property. The Planning Board may want to recommend updates to current ordinances to reflect the hazards caused by EAB infected trees.

### TOWNSHIP COUNCIL

David Schroth from the Town Council reported to us that the Council heard an energy presentation from a 3rd party provider about a cost saving program for all Ewing residents. The presentation was made by Gable Associates and more 3rd party suppliers will be presenting to the Council soon.

### EWING ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION/ETRA

Joe Mirabella reported that additional contamination has been found on the GM site and construction has been delayed. He announced that Wal-Mart is going to happen. It was discussed with the Town Council and the re-development plan is being adjusted accordingly.

### EWING SCHOOLS

Malissa Arnold reported that the Antheil Elementary Green Team is up and running and helped with a Garden Club activity with the school. They have a wonderful logo and have developed banners and water bottles to promote being greener as a school. They have a grant from Sustainable Jersey for Schools to assist with setting up Green Teams in the school. As of this meeting, Antheil was the only school in district with an active green team.



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## CONCLUSION

The close of the meeting was announced at 8:45, motioned by Mark Wetherbee, 2nd John Hoegl.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Malissa Arnold, Secretary*