



EWING GREEN TEAM

Promoting People, the Planet, and Prosperity in Ewing



June 28, 2017 Minutes

LOCATION: EWING SENIOR AND COMMUNITY CENTER

IN ATTENDANCE:

Evan Crumiller*
Ed DiFiglia
Lisa Feldman*
John Hoegl*
Michelle Pitts
Joe Mirabella*

Joanne Mullowney*
Brittany Musolino
Mark Simchock
Cait Versella*
Mark Wetherbee

INTRODUCTION

The June 28, 2017 meeting was called to order by Joanne Mullowney at 6:35. Green Team members were asked to approve the May minutes as posted on our website and hot-linked within the meeting reminder email. They were unanimously approved with no additions or corrections, Evan Crumiller, 2nd-Lisa Feldman.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GARDEN CONTEST

Joanne Mullowney announced that a new Garden Contest is being introduced this year as part of the Ewing Beautification efforts. It is being run in conjunction with the Garden Tour. The Township placed a full page ad in the Ewing Observer and this should garner a great deal of interest. The deadline to enter is August 1st. This is for amateurs only and there are different categories, for more complete details check out the ad.

We have rain barrels as prizes for the winners of the contest. Jim McManimon will announce the winners at CommFest on September 23rd. After the very successful rain barrel workshop on June 3rd we had 2 extra that we saved to give away as prizes.

FUNDING

After being turned down for the \$2k Sustainable Jersey grant Joanne spoke to Jim McManimon and he confirmed that they have never turned our group down on our requests. They have supported us in our endeavors, especially in many ads in the Ewing Observer. We always have to keep in mind the 15th of every month is the deadline for our next ad.

RAIN BARREL WORKSHOP

The Rain Barrel Workshop on June 3rd was an unqualified success. We had takers for all of our barrels and we managed to reserve a couple of extra for prizes (noted above). Andrew Garcia from AmeriCorps NJ Watershed



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Ambassador Program collected 31 rain barrels during the course of his term from River Horse, Ocean Spray and Sea Breeze. Home Depot also generously donated about \$250 in materials.

Take note that River Horse has barrels to give away if we want to hold another workshop, about 4 or 5 a month. We would just need a place to store them for future workshops.

Suggestion: A good cross over action tie into this would be having an arts contest with rain barrels.

GARDEN TOUR

The Garden tour will be run again this year and we are teaming up with the Girl Scouts and the West Trenton Garden Club as we did before. The cost of the tour was \$10.00 per person. Last year we split the proceeds (3) ways and our share paid for the Scarecrow Contest Prizes. We are hoping to earn the same again this year.

This year's tour is being expanded to 2 days – September 16th and 17th in order to give the gardeners and attendees greater flexibility. Each day will have the various gardens mapped out. Having 2 days gives options to the people showing the gardens and will hopefully get a larger turnout with this flexibility.

PUBLIC PROGRAM

Ed DiFiglia and Brittany Musolino presented an extremely informative program entitled ***“Be Water Smart: Learn Strategies for Water Efficient Living.*** Its focus was educating the municipalities, the state and the public on how to keep our waters clear, safe and healthy. What can our municipalities do to help? Ed's part of the presentation addressed flooding and water pollution by storm water ordinance.

Due to increased population and building density the water cycle has been drastically altered. Medium residential density runoff went from 10% runoff to 30% runoff. While discharge pollution has been cut down from industry, it has been increased from residential storm water runoff including agricultural pesticides, oil and salt in streets, and litter. There are solutions to reduce flood damage and pollution such as rain gardens, vegetated swales, and municipalities setting parameters to reduce peak flows to help reduce total suspended solids by 80%. While there have been storm water management systems put in place; they have not been properly maintained. These need to be correctly mapped and systems put in place for proper maintenance. Other states have successfully set up inspection programs like a storm water tax which charges a fee to inspect. This forces the systems to be maintained.

Brittany focused on describing the Watershed's award winning River Friendly program. This program is designed to help individuals, businesses, schools and golf courses contribute to a clean water and a healthy environment thru education and improvement of land stewardship practices. The four cornerstone goals of the program are to reduce pollution, conserve water, restore habitat for wildlife and educate the public about becoming better environmental stewards.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ARTS



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Lisa Feldman provided an update on the planned Yarn Bombing collaboration with the Arts Commission and Art Has No Boundaries. She is trying to coordinate crochet classes in order that all might attend. There will be a meeting on Thursday, May 25th with people involved: Lisa Feldman, Joanne Mullowney, Cait Versella, and Malissa Arnold of the Green Team. Jennifer Keyes-Maloney, Mel Antler and Rosanna Bua from the **Ewing Arts Commission** and Melissa Bennet and Anne Cheslock from **Art Has No Boundaries**.

The meeting is to organize the project; the what, when and where of what we want to accomplish. Hopefully by the next Green Team meeting we should have many of the details ironed out on how we are going forward.

We are also planning on the 4th annual scarecrow contest.

GREEN BUSINESS RECOGNITION

Evan Crumiller has found some companies he has approached are skeptical. He has made up some packets with a pre-addressed flyer to make this as easy as possible and has started to hand these out. Two suggested companies are Silver Star on Olden Avenue and the Element Hotel.

ENERGY

John Hoegl reported that the Energy Committee got a report at the Sustainable Jersey Summit that 5 Mayors are in support of Clean Energy and one of the five is Mayor Bert Steinmann of Ewing. The report is from the Sierra Club; John will get more information about this report.

John saw a draft of a resolution at the Summit of Green Teams supporting the Paris Accord. He suggests we get a copy and draft a resolution and bring to the Administration to see if they will support this. The Environmental Commission is in support of this as well.

There was supposed to be a meeting with Sandra Torres from Tri-State; they are the exclusive contractor for BPU's Direct Install Program for businesses.

COMMUNITY GARDENS

Cait Versella said there should have been a community gardens meeting, but it did not happen. The Township's tiller broke, so non-organic plots were not tilled and it set planting behind schedule. As Cait is the Green Team Rep; we're asking her to talk about the garden tour and contest to the other gardeners.

ENVIRONMENTAL INSIGHTS

Joe Mirabella is still on track for September on Ecology for beginners and October where we stand environmentally.

NEIGHBORHOODS

Caroline Steward is working on the Welcome Booklet and is having a meeting the first week in August.

REPORTS FROM OTHER BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS AND OLD/NEW BUSINESS



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EMERALD ASH BORER GRANT

The trees were planted late. Our remediation plan will probably not include spraying. The grant we had was to develop partners – Mercer County, Ewing Township, Rutgers, Mercer County... Rutgers study was specifically within 10' of road on municipal property –which gave total of 894 trees – this did not include anything further into property – and did not include any private property. Any tree once infected and dying and dead must be taken down since this is a safety hazard. They become brittle and break off easily and can cause damage. Bill Brash is currently working on adding more information to the Rutgers map, i.e. diameter of trees, age, etc.

EWING BETTER BAG PROJECT

Update on Eagle Scout Bag It Project. They are distributing recycling literature along with reusable bags and taking surveys which will give valuable data. To thank the Green Team they are giving us a portable banner.

ETRA

Joe Mirabella reported that ETRA has not had any meetings for couple of months.

EWING SCHOOLS

Antheil has a great garden. We hope that they will participate in garden tour again. Matthew Sisk, the teacher in charge of the Ewing High School community garden has asked Green Team to work with them.

PUBLIC HEARING

On July 26th, the same night as our meeting, the Township is holding a public hearing, about Watson Park and the Public Works and if recycling should be moved? Since this is of major interest to our group; it has been decided to move our meeting to 7:00 so that our members can attend both meetings. We will check with the Municipal Clerk to make sure this is acceptable.

COMMUNITY FEST AND NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

CommFest is on September 23rd, the same day as our Bike Tour and we will have a table. National Night Out is August 1st (First Tuesday) and we will have a table.

CONCLUSIONMARK

At 8:40 John Hoegl moved to adjourn and Joe Mirabella 2nd.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa Feldman, Acting Secretary



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