



EWING GREEN TEAM

Promoting People, the Planet, and Prosperity in Ewing



January 13, 2018 Minutes

LOCATION: EWING SENIOR AND COMMUNITY CENTER

IN ATTENDANCE:

Green Team members denoted by an asterisk *

Pete Boughton
Lee Farnham
Lisa Feldman*
Heidi Furman
John Hoegl*
Garry Keel*
Jennifer Keyes-Malone
Kylie King
Karen Kissel

Chuck Latini
Charlie Maack
Joseph Mirabella*
Joanne Mullowney*
Lillian Seu
Caroline Steward*
Sarah Steward*
Mark Wetherbee*

INTRODUCTION

The January 13, 2018 Annual Retreat was called to order by Joanne Mullowney at 9:10. The October minutes as posted on our website and hot-linked within the meeting reminder email were approved with Garry Keel moving and Lisa Feldman seconding approval. They were unanimously approved with no additions or corrections.

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

UPCOMING MEETINGS / EVENTS

- State Climatologist Dave Robinson will be speaking at Princeton Library about Climate Change in NJ at 7:00 Wednesday, January 17th. For anyone interested in attending, people are carpooling from Joanne's house.
- Neighborhood Committee is working on the Welcome Booklet is meeting this Thursday, January 18th at 7:00 at Community Center. Discussion will focus on the different versions and review of content.
- The Green Team Meeting on January 24th will feature Dennis Nettleton from the Ewing Schools who will give an overview of the sustainable efforts at the schools and will also cover the Board of Education's referendum on increasing funding for the schools.
- Meetings will be held on the 4th Wednesday of every month except November and December. There is no meeting in November and our December meeting will be held on the 1st Wednesday. They are scheduled for the Community Room and will remain at 6:30pm as was decided by the majority of the group.
- Joanne prepared a contact list for all of our members. People were asked to verify contact information. We're pleased to announce that Kylie King is our official Student Ambassador and will be sworn in on January 24th at our Green Team Meeting.

OFFICERS

Ewinggreenteam.org

Meetings: 4th Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m. Ewing Senior and Community Center, 999 Lower Ferry Rd., Ewing

Contact us: ewinggreenteam@gmail.com



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Election of officers will take place at the regular January meeting. We need a Chair and Vice Chair, with the idea that Vice Chair would grow into the Chair position, a Secretary, although Malissa Arnold has been gracious enough to volunteer for this task, and Membership Officer -Caroline and Evan handled this last year. Caroline offered to do this again. It's important to develop leadership for the growth of the group and for its future continuity. The Membership people are important to welcome people as they first come to our meetings. The Membership Officers need to cultivate new people's interests and encourage their returning and involvement.

ANNUAL REPORT

Joanne is working on the Annual Report and wants Committee heads to write up brief descriptions of the year's actions to be included in the report. She needs this before the 24th, our next meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

The Arts- Lisa Feldman

Lisa would like to add a new event to our successful annual Scarecrow event. This would require a collaboration of various groups and would be the start of another annual arts event – perhaps to be held in the spring. She would like to see if we could have it at TCNJ's Campus Town. This would fulfill a lot of our needs – gathering our community, getting TCNJ more involved in the community, arts, bringing focus on our Ewing artists, maybe getting Campus Town a bit more 'green', and getting lots of groups to work together to make this come together.

Bike Tour- Gary Keel

Our 4th annual event was very successful and raised \$945 for Prostate Cancer. TCNJ and Campus Town were great to work with and very helpful that it coincided with CommFest. This Bike Tour has helped bring focus to Open Space. Bike lanes are not protected and not enforced. Heidi Furman attended the State DOT's Parkway Ave Safety Improvement Study meeting to discuss redoing the traffic patterns on Parkway and she said they were very interested and receptive to getting her input as a bike rider.

It was mentioned that there is a phone line for report-a-pothole and everyone should follow through this helps prevent the next person from hitting the pothole.

Green Fair – John Hoegl

John is one of the committee members and asked everyone attending to think who in Ewing would be possible vendors or sponsors for the March 17th event. Last year the Ewing schools participated. The EHS Robotics Club was one of the participants.

Beautification -Joanne Mullowney

2017 was our 2nd year participating in the garden tour and had more gardeners than the first. The tour was both Saturday and Sunday. This was the first year that there was a contest. We partnered with the West Trenton Garden Club and local Girl Scout Troop 70138 and this keeps growing. Our share of the proceeds helped to pay the prize money for the Scarecrow Contest. The hope is to keep growing the interest in gardening, spread the word and get more people interested in the tour and beautifying Ewing.



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The Green Team has partnered with the Environmental Commission to create sustainable landscaping pamphlets and Joanne would like our group to help promote these same ideas. Maybe we could find a way to certify more properties as wildlife gardens.

Are there any landscapers in Ewing certified as sustainable who could do an outreach, Joanne is particularly concerned that we only support native plants. Could we do an outreach to businesses to correct tree volcanoes? Charlie Maack suggested Joe Mirabella write a letter to the Commissioner to address this. (Was this to DEP?) Pamphlet on volcanoeing was written 15 years ago. The Shade Tree Federation has a nice pamphlet.

The Green Fair is a good opportunity to address this. If there is a public contract for landscaping (government building) try contacting purchasing department to find who the landscaper is.

Emerald Ash Borer-Joanne Mullowney

The grant is winding down. A community outreach meeting will be held on the March 20th Environmental Commission meeting. The final report is due April 30th. In the tree replanting a number of the 83 trees that were planted died but we had a 1 year warranty so they will be replaced. Bill Brash, the Certified Forrester who ran the technical part of the grant will share the results of our tree inventory with Mercer County, PSE&G and other partners.

Neighborhood Committee-Caroline Steward

The Committee meets every other Thursday at 7:00 at Community Center; the first meeting of the year is this Thursday, January 18th. The main project is the Ewing Welcome Booklet. The plan is to have different versions, a large one on website and condensed version for handouts. 10 x 4 is very portable. We already have 50 pages of content. The Township Administration is interested in printing.

Energy-John Hoegl

State is changing programs for Direct Install for Home/Energy Star. A Township does not have to use an exclusive contractor. Benchmarking for the Township may be a problem since we don't have an easy way to measure to see savings. We believe that it would be necessary to consolidate metered accounts for energy bills but to do that the Township would lose savings from 3rd party billing.

Pete Boughton has offered to be a consultant to the Energy Committee which is John and Mark. They need to knock on doors of small business owners to convince them that the Direct Install program would be a big savings in the long run. One obstacle is that many business owners don't actual own the buildings from which they operate their business. We need to find the building owner in order to do the program, but often they don't have any incentive since the owner has the renters pay for their own energy usage.

Mike Winka, a member of the Mercer County Sustainability Coalition, has offered to help us with program to figure energy savings.

SUSTAINABLE JERSEY OVERVIEW

Sustainable Jersey gives us access to grants. In the past we have had (2) \$10,000 grants, (1) \$20,000 grant and (1) \$2,000.



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This is the 2nd year of our 3rd year cycle. We should have 140 points that are carrying over from our last certification cycle. We'll review the different categories of SJ actions to see where we are, what we can work on and think what our future plans should include.

Animals-Animals in the Community

We need to check with EASEL as they contacted us at the end of the last certification cycle with actions they completed. Maybe if we followed information on licensing of animals it would work? Re: Wildlife. Is deer management a shared service with County?

Arts

We are looking for points **Creative Placemaking**. Lisa's idea of starting an annual event at Campus Town would certainly fulfill this. 1867 Sanctuary becoming an arts gallery would also be good marketing space. In order to keep the 10 points for the Creative Team it would require a Green Team member appointment to the Arts Commission. Maybe Heidi?

Brownfields

Chuck Latini -GM and Navy Base, DEP and GM final conclusion and final remediation. There had been reallocated funds and with last remediation so site clearing should start in March.

Community Partnership

This include Educational Outreach –Joe Mirabella – Nuclear Energy has been requested again; Trees-volcanoeing; put water as one of the topics for this year, it's very timely.

Diversity and Equity

Diversity on Community Boards. We could use the 2010 census to retrieve gender, race and ethnicity data to figure the percentage of the population for percentage on Boards. Suggestion for help getting people interested in volunteering for Boards and Commissions – make videos for each Board or Commission with a brief description of what they do, their responsibilities, and post on the Township website. Perhaps a student at TCNJ could do this. It was mentioned that the Township has the equipment to do this in-house.

Emergency Management & Resiliency

Julie D'Amico is in charge of Emergency Management for Ewing Township. She would be a good contact.

Energy Efficiency

Energy Tracking & Management action is hard with outside provider. Joanne offered to try to consolidate bills but Township sent bills in PDF format and it's almost impossible to accurately transfer into the data required. There are at least 40 accounts and each would need their own unique identifier (a discrete email address) in order to download the data. PSE&G would consolidate the accounts but would not be able to keep the 3rd party supplier with the consolidation. Would Sustainable Jersey help since PSE&G is such a big sponsor?

Food

Possible points include Buy Fresh, Buy Local campaign, the Farmer's Market at Campus Town. Any possibility SJ would allow credit for Trenton Farmer's Market since it is on our border?

Green Design

Township is really not there.



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Health and Wellness

Safe Routes to School is something that we have looked at in the past. We should revisit this action.

Building Healthier Communities –This initiative has to be to a Mayoral initiative, not the Green Team's.

Need to promote some of our actions – like no smoking. “Smoke Free Zones.”

“No idling”enforcement maybe an issue, public awareness may also be helpful.

Waste Management

Recycling is now called “Renamed Waste Management” (Lisa & Charlie are both interested in this).

Prescription Drugs Recycling

- Project Medicine Drop – we should get credit.

Community paper shredding

- Two dates are set for 2018: the last Saturday in April on the 28th (This is the day after Arbor Day) and the last Saturday in September, on Sept 29th).

Recycling education & enforcement

- To clarify to the public, a recycling education flyer/poster was created with images of recyclable items. It is available for viewing under the recycling page on the Ewing Township website.

Waste Audit of Municipal Buildings and/or Schools...

- Ewing High school does not recycle well.
- Can we ask both public and private schools, do any of them have recycling a good recycling program? Can they, would they be willing to implement a program to reduce wastes? Do they have recycling programs in place?

Reusable Bags”- Plastic Issue

- The reusable bag program – It would be great if an Eagle Scout could to repeat what the previous Scout had done last year to help to promote this program, and distribute again bags at Ewing Campus town, local farmer's market, local stores, etc.
- Plastic bag education is a still a very big waste issue. And so a reusable bag program would be very good. The DEP says plastic bags get caught up in the machinery and it ruins the whole batch of recyclables! So this is still is a huge problem!
- Possibly ask local food stores to post signs in parking lots – “Please Bring your own reusable bag to help reduce plastic bags wastes.
- Earth week is approaching. There are some reusable bags left over for the Eagle Scout project last year. There may be 500 bags left over. Perhaps the Ewing Green Team can apply for a grant in the future to purchase reusable bags and put our logo on them and then distribute them at our local stores. Or partner with the food stores for community education and outreach on this issue of no plastic please. Most stores no longer give refunds for customers bringing their own bags.
- See online “Straw less in Seattle.” This video show the efforts of Seattle businesses who gave up giving out straws... as each straw creates more waste.



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Recycling at Events

- It is unfortunate that currently no recycling happens at Ewing Community events and etc. We need two clearly marked cans are needed at each location instead of just one can for all wastes. It would be so helpful if one was clearly labeled for garbage waste and the other labeled for recyclables. (And possibly a third can for food waste, which can be composted if the township moves in this direction)

Household Hazardous Waste-no township, a County wide disposal day is offered

Backyard composting

- Possibly create a Backyard composting outreach program- possibly to teach people how to compost and how build their own composter (Karen Kissel interested in this).

Grasscycling

- We can promote the Department of Public Works website online flyer “Grasscycling Cut & leave it program.” In the past Joanne had reached out to local landscaping businesses with this flyer and a letter asking them for their cooperation to “cut it & leave it”.

Curbside Recycling

- Mercer County is single stream. Have always collected # 1 and #2 plastics, but they have not expanded to collect # 3 thru #7...like some other states do.

Natural Resources

Lee Farnham, former Environmental Commission Chair and Joe Mirabella, current Environmental Commission Chair will be the leads on the Natural Resources Category. Actions which we have received credit for in the past, include: the ERI (Environmental Resource Inventory), having an Environmental Commission (need the Annual Report for next year to certify), Site Plan Review.

New actions which we would like to complete before certification next year include:

- An Open Space Plan- which will include a Bike Plan. Chuck said he believes that it can be completed in time.
- A Tree inventory - The Environmental Commission would like to apply for CSIP grant for 2018 with the help of Bill Brash, our Ewing forester. Regarding the Tree Inventory category, we can apply for the CSIP grant program again. Lee had applied for 2 tree planting programs previously, but had not received any funds from that. Lee will contact ANJEC and move forward with the CSIP application for 2018.
- Tree protection Ordinance - Chuck said “playing with the issue of public and private businesses” in regard to the ordinance. We should stress that trees make a place, a town, a more desirable place to live and focus on our better quality of life with trees.
- Tree Planting Program – We have done an initial tree planting with some of the funds from the EAB grant that will count for points for the Sustainable Jersey resubmission. We also will have the No Net Loss” Tree plantings from the development of Scudder’s Falls Bridge.



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To become a Tree City USA – we need a Tree Protection Ordinance and we need a Tree Inventory.

Sustainability Planning

During our Community Visioning the community indicated a need for a Welcome Committee/Center. Caroline's Neighborhood Committee is currently working on a "Welcome to Ewing" booklet/pamphlet.

CONCLUSION

We covered a lot of information in this meeting. And we still have a few topics yet to be discussed, such as Public Information & Engagement through the township processes, i.e. through the website, Facebook, Twitter, etc. The remaining topics will be covered at the next EGT meeting.

Also everyone please, post on the Ewing Green Team Facebook page to keep it fresh and diversified and keep topics current.

The next meeting will be our regularly scheduled meeting on January 24th where newly appointed or re-appointed Green Team members will be sworn in for their new terms. The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa K. Feldman and Karen Kissel, Acting Secretaries