



EWING GREEN TEAM

Promoting People, the Planet and Prosperity in Ewing

MAY 23, 2018 MEETING MINUTES

LOCATION: EWING SENIOR AND COMMUNITY CENTER

PRESENT

Green Team members denoted with an asterisk *

Mary Corrigan*
Evan Crumiller*
Lisa Feldman*
Heidi Furman
John Hoegl*
Garry Keel*

Joanne Mullowney*
Michelle Pitts
Caroline Steward*
Sarah Steward*
Mark Wetherbee
Andy Williams

INTRODUCTION

The May meeting was called to order by Joanne Mullowney at 6:45 PM. The April minutes are still in the works and will be up for approval at the next meeting.

DISCUSSION

The May meeting was focused on our re-certification effort for Sustainable Jersey for 2019. For people unfamiliar with Sustainable Jersey; it is the non-profit organization that provides tools, training and financial incentives to support communities as they pursue sustainability programs.

We need to work on getting re-certified and need 350 points for Silver. Committees need to meet outside of the meeting in order to accomplish our goals.

RECYCLING AND WASTE

The committee volunteers are John Hoegl, Lisa Feldman, Karen Kissel, Charlie Maack, Heidi Furman and Lillian Seu. They discussed working on recycling contamination, especially addressing plastic bags being mixed incorrectly in recycling.

1. Might revisit the re-usable bags program with the Boy Scouts that was so successful.
2. Karen Kissel has offered to run a compost program.
3. Promote Public Works flyer was used for grass program.
4. Straw-free program, might be easy, straws seem to be the 'in' thing to tackle.



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5. Promote recycling and education at the upcoming events – Community Fest and National Night Out. Caroline suggested that we run a Trash Olympics where we would have people recycle items from our pile of trash to demonstrate what can and can't be recycled.

Contractors were abusing the Recycling Depot so the Township is talking about instituting a new program that would offer homeowner's drop-off privileges 12 x a year and then, if necessary, you could purchase additional opportunities to drop-off items if needed. Recycling committee will meet at Lisa's house.

ANIMALS IN THE COMMUNITY

It is our hope to use the National Wildlife Federation's program for certifying the properties of individuals, schools and public spaces for our community for the Wildlife Action Interaction Plan or Wildlife Education in the Animals in the Community action category. To be certified in the program Ewing needs a total of 250 points. Each personal garden is worth one point, a school is worth 5 points and a public space is worth three. There are already a number of certified personal gardens in town, 2 schools in Ewing are certified (Antheil and Parkway) and no public spaces that we know of. Many of the points would be awarded for education and outreach.

EASEL should help us get some points for all of the good work they do with animals in the community.

ARTS/CREATIVE PLACEMAKING

This committee consists of Lisa, Heidi and Karen. In order to meet the requirements for this category, we need to maintain the points from our last certification. Someone would need a dual appointment on the Arts Commission/ Green Team. Lisa is attending their meetings and would be willing to join in January but they may have a full roster and unable to officially have someone join. We will have to find out what happens if this is the case.

Lisa has been working with the Arts Commission and helping with their events such as their very successful Student Art Show at the Elks Club. They are very interested in working with us to start an annual Arts Festival and are very receptive as is the group, Art Has No Boundaries, to start planning this for 2019.

We would need to ask the Arts Commission to run another public discussion about Ewing's artistic assets like we did 2 years ago that was so successful. This is one of the criteria required for Creative Assets to get 10 points.

Our Arts Committee has also discussed creating a summer event for children maybe at the Senior Center which would include children's yoga and arts and crafts. This would be another opportunity to collaborate with other groups like the Arts Commission and Art Has No Boundaries.



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Between the public meeting, having an event in the summer and the Scarecrow Contest we should be looking at 20-30 points.

ENERGY

DIRECT INSTALL PROGRAM

The Energy Committee consists of John Hoegl, Mark Wetherbee, Evan Crumiller, Pete Boughton and Garry Keel. The Direct Install program for small businesses will be their main focus. We have 16 companies that have used this program. The PRAB (Puerto Rican Action Board) that meets here at the Senior Center might be a good source for businesses who could be contacted. It would also be a good source of points for the Energy Outreach and Education action.

Tri-State Light and Energy will pay for the initial outreach to Ewing small business owners. The mailing will consist of approximately 600 businesses. The Mercer County Sustainability Coalition applied for a \$20k grant to be shared with all the municipalities, but was denied. We (members of the Coalition) are re-applying for a smaller \$10k grant for basically the same type of small business Direct Install but with less advertising. Ewing could still benefit. This may come through but we won't know until sometime this summer.

ENERGY TRACKING AND MANAGEMENT

This action continues to be a challenge with the usage from over 40 different electric meters to track. We would like the Township to track energy usage, especially after all of the energy efficient upgrades that have been made in Township facilities like putting on a white roof and new heaters.

The problem with tracking is that an account for each meter needs to be set up in order to download the usage data. In order to set up each account, a unique email address must be used (the PSE&G unique identifier) and that was a major stumbling block in the past. It was recommended that the accounts be consolidated by location which PSE&G is willing to do, however account consolidation would require the removal of the 3rd party energy supplier. This could possibly be done at the time that the 3rd party supplier is re-upped. It was also suggested that since PSE&G is a big sponsor of Sustainable Jersey, maybe they can help figure a way to do this energy tracking.

RESIDENTIAL ENERGY AUDIT

John Hoegl will ask the Township if they have reconsidered their previous objection to this. They did not like the idea that they have to endorse one company as the company of choice to do all the audits.

Caroline offered to write up School energy conservation programs for Sustainable Jersey points.

GREEN FAIR

Ewinggreenteam.org

Monthly Meetings at Ewing Senior & Community Center, 999 Lower Ferry Rd, Ewing, NJ 08618, 4th Wed. of each month

Contact us: ewinggreenteam@gmail.com



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The 2018 Green Fest still counts for the upcoming SJ credits.

DIVERSITY

This committee consists of Jennifer Keyes-Malone, Pete Boughton and Joanne Mullowney. They created a diversity survey of to be distributed to the members of all of the Township Boards and Commissions in order to evaluate the diversity of Ewing's current appointees. That was a recommendation by Sustainable Jersey, but as we are having difficulty filling vacancies on boards and commissions, it was suggested that we create videos for each of the Boards, explaining what they do to help people understand the duties and responsibilities. It was hoped that this would encourage people to volunteer.

LEAD TESTING

Lead Evaluation-the town has requirements for children's lead testing. There is an educational press release from the Health Department for Home Owners of homes built before 1970. Caroline Steward usually coordinates this write up with the Health Department.

GREEN BUSINESS RECOGNITION

This action will be coordinated with the Energy Committee.

We will stop at this point with the review of SJ action points and finish at the next meeting. The rest of the meeting we will hear committee reports.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

BIKE RIDE

Garry Keel reported that the committee will meet on June 4th. The bike ride is planned for September 29th, the same day as Community Fest, and will start and end at Campus Town. Once again, the Township will pick up all the costs as this is considered a Community Fest event. On a personal note, Garry wanted to thank everyone for their thoughtfulness for their notes, emails, and fruit basket on the loss of his father.

WELCOME BOOKLET

An overview of the booklet to date was given. Attendees were very impressed with job done by the committee headed by Caroline Steward and Joanne Mullowney. People were asked to review for corrections and additions. It is almost ready for posting. Our goal is to have this project completed by Community Fest.

GARDEN TOUR



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The date of this year's tour will be Saturday, July 7th. At this time there are 10 gardens signed up. The tour will be starting at the ESCC and we will be asking for volunteers to sign up for a 2 hour shift to sell the tickets. The Ewing Green Team and Environmental Commission's courtyard garden will also be on display. Hours will be 10-5. Working with us will be the Girl Scout Troop with Karen Dupee, the Scout Leader of Troop #70138 and the West Trenton Garden Club.

CONCLUSION

The agenda for the next meeting will be to continue planning our projects for certification.

Motion to adjourn was made at 8:45 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa K. Feldman, Acting Secretary