



EWING GREEN TEAM

Promoting People, the Planet, and Prosperity in Ewing



AUGUST 22, 2018 MEETING MINUTES

LOCATION: EWING SENIOR AND COMMUNITY CENTER

ATTENDEES

Green Team members denoted with an asterisk *

Pete Boughton
Mary Corrigan *
Lee Farnham
Lisa Feldman*
Heidi Furman
John Hoegl*
Garry Keel *
Kylie King *
Karen Kissel
Jeanine Mavich

Karen McKeon
Jim McManimon*
Anthony Messina
Joe Mirabella*
Joanne Mullowney *
Dennis Nettleton
Caroline Steward*
Sarah Steward*
Sandra Torres
Mark Wetherbee *

INTRODUCTION

Meeting was called to order by Joanne Mullowney at 6:35pm. Green Team members were asked to approve the July 2018 minutes as posted on our website and hot-linked within the meeting reminder email. They were unanimously approved with no additions or corrections.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Community Fest will be on September 29th. We will run the bike tour, the Ewing Fall Spin, once again this year. This year the proceeds will be donated to the ARC Mercer.

Community Fest Ideas are similar to National Night Out. We will continue our recycling education and outreach with the Trash Olympics, an interactive game for participants to learn how to properly sort trash from recycling. Also, an idea was proposed about helping to man the trash and recycling bins across Community Fest to make sure that waste is disposed of properly.

Reminder was made about the Greater Mercer Trail Network Plan. A meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 12th from 7 – 9 pm at the Hollowbrook Nutrition Room. All interested bicycling and walking enthusiasts are encouraged to attend and give their input about the creation of the trail network and the paths and facilities that they would like to see in Ewing.

MAIN DISCUSSION



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EWING SCHOOLS

Guest speaker for the evening was Dennis Nettleton, the Business Administrator for the Ewing School district. Also in attendance were Anthony Messina and Karen McKeon from the Ewing School Board.

Dennis presented an update on the recycling program. There was a misunderstanding with their contractor and they are working on having the appropriate sorting of trash, recycling and composting.

The discussion focused on the proposed Referendum for \$59.3 million which is up for vote on October 2, 2018. The tax impact will vary depending on interest rate, but the current estimate is about \$100 average for Ewing homes. The school portion of tax bill impact was flat and there is a small decrease last year. The schools have not raised taxes in 2 years. The Board is trying to plan ahead to maintain the school for the future. Demographics have been monitored and their results point to this being the optimal time for a referendum project of this size. Many things that are scheduled to be done will get much worse if not addressed soon, as preventative measures. Financing – this is timing. Ewing high school is 68 years old. It is difficult to regulate heating and cooling, and zones. Many blame the teachers or students in the class rooms when they have to open windows to balance heat in the winter. We have seen other high schools in the area that have gotten so bad that the only resolution was to raze the building and start over. We are trying to prevent that.

Monies are allotted for safety and security, installing new cameras and doors. The roofs are out of warranty. The bond to fix them will pay off within 30 years. There is an environmental piece in the plans; we have very old boilers, very inefficient and inconsistent, which don't have the same models, parts etc. Modernizing and automation, with smaller zones for HVAC are a part of the plans. Included in the updates are improvements to instructional spaces- lighting, parking lot, arts, traffic flow, lockers...

Questions were asked about energy efficiency of window walls, and the contingency for adding solar panels. The Board is trying to focus on the structures themselves before they add solar that will not last as long as the roof itself. Questions were also posed about the cap on costs- projects will be cut if costs exceed projections. Questions were asked about asbestos and lead. The engineers are paying attention to asbestos. Lead remediation is ongoing and they are working with an engineer to maintain it. They are also changing out water fountains to bottle fillers which have more filtration devices. And they are also working on filtration from point of entry of water to the building. Testing is not expensive, and remediation and filtering is not cost prohibitive as well. The last testing of lead resulted in them shutting it down or adding filtration. Very few are out of commission due to lead. Many plumbing fixtures were outdated and cannot be retrofitted for filtration.

Stipulations exist on some projects where a referendum is required to receive additional funds from state, and some federal.

RECYCLING

Ewing Business Administrator Jim McManimon also spoke to us about the recycling crisis. China is no longer accepting much of the world's recycling and is imposing new contamination restrictions for what they do import. There are only a few countries that are taking the materials. This means higher costs for everyone. The haulers have imposed new, higher fees on the County (the Mercer County Improvement Authority) which manages recycling for most of the communities in Mercer. This has been passed along to those communities. Ewing has recently seen a 70% increase in fees. There has also been talk about inspections of the collected recycling by town.



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The Green Team has been asked to help educate residents about the importance of recycling only allowed materials and reducing contamination in our materials. We worked on that for National Night Out with our Recycling Olympics and will continue that outreach at all future events, including the upcoming Community Fest. We will create an educational pamphlet for distribution to residents and an ad for the Ewing Observer.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Joanne reported on the meeting she and Sarah Steward recently had with Jim McManimon about our recertification plans. He and Ewing Administration are in support of most of the projects outlined in the spreadsheet. We need to move ahead with planned activities.

NEIGHBORHOOD COMMITTEE

Caroline reported that the Welcome Booklet was well received at National Night Out. She handed out business cards with the information about the booklet and the URL so that people can take a look. She and her committee will need to focus on how to get the word out to more people. Jenn Keyes-Maloney had some ideas about how to get the book printed. We will see if we can go there.

ENERGY COMMITTEE

The Energy Committee will have a meeting about the Direct Install program for small to medium-sized local businesses on Tuesday, October 23rd. A mailing will be going out in the weeks beforehand to many Ewing businesses. Included will be the Mayor's letter of support, a DI informational flyer, and an insert about the Green Business Recognition program.

COMMUNITY WILDLIFE HABITAT PROJECT

This subcommittee is moving forward, continuing with outreach materials. They had flyers and a poster at National Night Out. They are working on more promotional materials and their website.

UPCOMING EVENTS

BIKE TOUR

Don't forget to support the Ewing Fall Spin on September 29th. Garry reports that plans are well in hand and things are moving along smoothly.

SCARECROW CONTEST

The fifth annual Scarecrow Contest is planned to be held in conjunction with Trunk or Treat on October 27th. Last year was extremely successful with over 20 scarecrows in the contest. The Garden Tour raised the money for the prizes so we are set there. We will need volunteers to assist that day as Lisa Feldman will be recovering from surgery.

RESTAURANTS FOR TOMORROW



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Green Team members handed out informational postcards and initiations to Restaurants for Tomorrow event invitation for local restaurants. They are a group of businesses that we haven't approached yet about a multitude of sustainability initiatives (particularly plastic).

Reminder there will be an open meeting of the Mercer County Sustainability Coalition on September 28th on the topic of recycling in crisis. Dan Napoleon, Director of the MCIA, is scheduled to present. We hope to have someone from Solterra (the contracted hauler) in attendance also. All are welcome to attend and learn more about how to better handle this crisis.

CONCLUSION

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM following a motion to adjourn by Caroline Steward, seconded by Mark Wetherbee and approved by all.

Respectfully Submitted,

Malissa K. M. Arnold

Secretary