



EWING GREEN TEAM

Promoting People, the Planet, and Prosperity in Ewing



JULY 25, 2018 MEETING MINUTES

LOCATION: EWING SENIOR AND COMMUNITY CENTER

ATTENDEES

Green Team members denoted with an asterisk *

Evan Crumiller*
Lisa Feldman*
Heidi Furman
John Hoegl*
Karen Kissel

Joe Mirabella*
Michelle Pitts
Caroline Steward*
Sarah Steward*

INTRODUCTION

Joanne Mullowney was away so Co-Chair Evan Crumiller began the meeting at 6:40 pm. The April and June minutes were approved.

DISCUSSION

NEIGHBORHOOD COMMITTEE

Caroline Steward announced that The Welcome Book is done and ready for publishing. We need to decide how to distribute to the public. We will make a copy and show it on National Night Out on August 7th. One suggestion is to print a card that has the link address for the Welcome Book to make it easy for people to find it. It will, of course, be on our website and on the Township's site. We would like to have some printed copies distributed to places like the library, the two (2) Community Centers and the Municipal Building.

Possibly down the road we can add the names of local businesses and realtors and they would be willing to help offset the cost of printing some copies of this 60 page booklet.

ENERGY COMMITTEE

John reported that the Direct Install program to small businesses will be postponed until outreach seminar to small businesses can be held. Mayor Steinmann agreed to do a letter in support of this cost savings program operated by Sandra Torres of Tri-State. The Mayor's approval gives this more credibility.

HomeFront will be taking advantage of the Direct Install Program and will be a great example to show what a great program this is for others to follow.

The home energy audit program for home owners will probably be put on hold at this time.



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COMMUNITY WILDLIFE HABITAT PROJECT

The Wildlife Habitat Committee will have display at NNO. The garden at the Community Center will hopefully become a designated Wildlife Habitat.

UPCOMING EVENTS

National Night Out will be held on August 7th from 6:00-800 pm. We will highlight recycling with Trash Olympics. This will be a great fun way to get people to interact with us. We can set up -- 2 recycling buckets and 1 trash can in-between so that we can have 2 people going at the same time. Evan can easily get 2 new buckets and has a cute metal bucket that will work as the 'trash' can.

Green Team members volunteered for NNO (Evan, Lisa, Heidi, Karen, Caroline, Joe) Suggested we all wear our Ewing Green Team t-shirts. Members should check with Joanne if they don't have one.

As people are tossing their items and they make a mistake a buzzer (ehhhhhh) will be an effective sound to advise them of their error. Joe has offered to do the buzzer. We will be using this to help correct many misunderstandings people have about recycling.

We should all get there by 5:45 to set up and understand what we're doing. Table set up with Joanne's green tablecloth with various literatures. Everyone who participates will get a Mercer County reusable bag (Evan will be asking for box of 100). If we keep track of number of bags we give out, it will help us get an idea of people we speak with at event. Kids will be getting pencils. Lisa ordered recycled pencils with Ewing Green Team information.

Poster with pictures taken of recycling mistakes from around Ewing (Wall of Shame) taken by Green Team members will help with our educational theme of dos and don'ts of recycling. (Suggest people who have taken pictures of recycling mistakes should send to Joanne so she can print out nicely)

Our goal is to help improve the quality of Ewing's recycling and lessen the contamination in recycling. Have handouts on rules on what is recyclable in Mercer County, see if MCIA offers handouts.

The Recycling Committee had discussed creating educational 'Oops Stickers' for the recycling collectors to use on recycling collection days to put on recycling buckets for residents whose recycling included items that were not recyclable, i.e. plastic bags, dirty pizza boxes, Styrofoam, electronics, wooden objects, the list goes on.

It was discussed that it would be more diplomatic for the recycling still be taken, but the 'oops' sticker would be left to educate for the next time. One suggestion on the design of the "oops" sticker would be some basic boxes could be checked off as to the reason why the recycling was 'wrong' such as we don't accept plastic bags non-recyclable plastic food contamination _____ (they write in). This has to be fast and easy since time is critical and the recycling workers have to keep moving quickly. However, we have to get Solterra/Central Jersey Waste to agree to work with us. Lisa is going to try to stop by since calling has not been successful.



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A message we need to reinforce – ‘when in doubt, throw it out.’ So if you’re not sure, just put it in the garbage. This way we will lessen the contamination and the quality of the recycling will have to improve.

BIKE TOUR

The Green Team annual Fall Spin will be held the same day as CommFest, Sept 29th.

FACEBOOK

The Township is using social media in a positive way, getting good information out to public. Now thanks to Joanne, Township has Facebook page.

Caroline suggested that we should make an effort to attend Town Council meetings and listen to ongoing discussions on problems with recycling, disposing of leaves and lawn trimmings. She suggested that we approach Council so Green Team could help promote grass clippings recycling since we already have the pamphlet. We could post the brochure on the new Township Facebook page.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa K. Feldman

Acting Secretary