



EWING GREEN TEAM

Promoting People, the Planet, and Prosperity in Ewing



JANUARY 5, 2019 RETREAT MINUTES

LOCATION: EWING SENIOR AND COMMUNITY CENTER

PRESENT

Appointees denoted by an asterisk *

Pete Boughton
Kevin Baxter
Dorin Ciocotisan*
Evan Crumiller*
Lisa Feldman*
Heidi Furman*
John Hoegl*
Kylie King*

Karen Kissel
Charles Maack
Joe Mirabella*
Donna Morgan
Joanne Mullowney*
Caroline Steward*
Sarah Steward*
Mark Wetherbee*

INTRODUCTION

Joanne started the meeting by officially welcoming two new appointees to the Green Team - Heidi Furman and Dorin Ciocotisan. She advised the group that the three people from the Township, Tom Elder (Recycling Coordinator), Sarah Steward (Council Representative), and Jim McManimon (Business Administrator) that are listed as members of the Green Team don't count as appointees to the Green Team. So, there is still room on the team for yet one more appointment. If anyone knows someone who may be interested, please encourage them to attend and to let Joanne know.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFICERS

Reminder that at our January meeting we will be holding our election for officers.

ANNUAL REPORT

Joanne requested a summary of the activities from each committee head as soon as possible. Photos would also be helpful. Once she has all the committee reports she will compile the Annual Report.



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NEW ROUND OF SJ GRANT FUNDING

Sustainable Jersey is offering a series of grants **due February 15**; (4) \$20K; (8) \$10K; (20) \$2K capacity building grants. Does anyone have any projects that they would like to propose for which grant funding would be helpful? One suggestion would be technology related. Joanne will speak to Rob Green, the Township IT Director. It needs to be something to move our mission forward help us earn more points.

Pete suggested a grant proposal involving Energy Tracking and Management, but we face the long-running problem of the inconsistent format of the various energy accounts and the trouble downloading them that would cause a problem with the billing from the 3rd party energy supplier. It has been suggested that since PSE&G is the grant funder they may be willing to help with this problem.

Recycling area is a good possibility for a grant proposal. We had discussed getting signs for parking lots to remind shoppers to bring in their reusable bags. Plastic bag banners – reminder BYOB (bring your own bags) for supermarket parking lots. A campaign around pizza box contamination was also discussed.

A concern for the grant is the timing – it needs to be completed in a timely fashion so as not to interfere with our hopes for another Community Visioning event for which we would also want to apply for a grant next year.

GT 10TH BIRTHDAY

Lee Farnham of the Environmental Commission has reminded us of an important date – May 27, 2019 is the 10th Anniversary of the Green Team and we should think about doing something to mark this important milestone.

ARBOR DAY

An Arbor Day celebration (April 26) and tree planting event are necessary to become a Tree City USA. Last year each member of the GT and EC contributed \$25 towards the purchase of a tree which was planted with a plaque stating that it was gifted from the Green Team and Environmental Commission.

STREAM CLEAN UP

We received an email from the Watershed Institute offering to work with us to organize a local stream clean-up in April. Donna Morgan has worked with the Watershed on other projects and volunteered to take the lead on this on behalf of the Green Team. The Watershed listed a series of dates with times to see if we would be interested. The group was in favor of doing this and chose Saturday, April 6th as the date with the 9-11 am time slot as our preferred time and the 1-3:00 as our back-up. Joanne will speak to Jim McManimon for suggestions about which location they thought most needed work. Donna will work with the Watershed and Joanne will coordinate with her. Caroline suggested that this may be a good tie-in for neighborhood involvement depending on location selected. Once this is decided; we can see if she can get a local neighborhood group actively involved. We thank Donna for volunteering.



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MEADOW PROJECT

Good news for our Meadow Project. It was officially approved by Mercer County freeholders, so the project will be moving forward in 2 (two) locations; here at the Community Center and at the Village Green this spring.

ANJEC MEMBERSHIP

ANJEC, the Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions, has associate memberships available for purchase at \$150 per year. The Ewing Environmental Commission has a paid membership and some of their members get to go to the annual convention. Would there be a benefit for the Green Team to getting an associate membership?

FEEDERWATCH FOR SCHOOLS

Lee Farnham is looking for assistance for the FeederWatch at Schools program. This is another citizen science type volunteer to work in the schools to help gather data on the local bird population.

LEGISLATIVE OUTREACH

We should think about keeping abreast of New Jersey Legislation. Joanne recently contacted our legislators regarding parallel Senate and Assembly bills prohibiting the sale of invasive species (the list in process) at local nurseries and garden centers. Should we GT members start sending letters to local politicians in the state Senate and Assembly on issues that are important to us? We did get a response back from Senator Shirley Turner agreeing on the importance of the ban on selling invasive species and she agreed to co-sponsor it. Another issue we are concerned about is a ban on fracking in the Delaware River Basin. Should we consider a way of keeping abreast of the legislation? A concern is that we are appointed by the Mayor. We should contact our legislators as individuals rather than as the Ewing Green Team.

ENVIRONMENTAL COLUMN

Joanne contacted Bill Sanservino, the editor at the Ewing Observer, proposing a monthly environmental column; she has not heard back.

RECERTIFICATION

Every 3 (three) years the Green Team is required to perform a variety of actions and submit a write-up with photos to Sustainable Jersey for certification in their program. In 2013, the Ewing Green Team achieved the Bronze Level and in 2016 with 350 points the Ewing Green Team proudly achieved Silver Certification. We also received an award for the most points for a town with our size population. We are again facing re-certification and the deadline is the 1st Saturday in June(?) which is June 1, 2019



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In reviewing our status, we already have a good start with 130 points. We will break down the various categories and actions to understand what we need to do to again achieve the Silver Level. Each action requires proof of action with documentation.

Joanne will send out copies of the last reports from our last certification. Here is each action and where we stand:

ANIMALS IN THE COMMUNITY

EDUCATION & OUTREACH

Lambertville used the work that they did in the National Wildlife Federation's Community Wildlife Habitat Project for points, so our work should equally well qualify. We might also get points from the work that EASEL is doing. The pledge of support for the NJ Wildlife Action Plan is no longer enough to get the points; we now need to do 2 (two) actions to support wildlife. We should check to see if the outreach for gardening and stream clean-up qualify for points. The Gardening for Wildlife Committee presentation at library could possibly be used for points?

What about the Deer Management project that Joe and John are working on? The Princeton deer hunting that has been going on for years have results that have been significant with 150 car accidents annually reduced to about 40 annually. However, the deer hunt is very controversial. Would have to make Town Council aware of our findings; perhaps a survey for residents.

ARTS AND CREATIVE CULTURE

CREATIVE TEAM

One of the requirements is a member of the Ewing Green Team be a part of the Arts group; Lisa Feldman is being put on the Ewing Arts Commission.

CREATIVE PLACEMAKING

The Creative Placemaking actions have changed and need to be reviewed for points. We may be able to get points for 'Utilizing Creative Assets' with the Featured Artists Program that the Arts Commission and Art Has No Boundaries run.

CREATIVE ASSETS INVENTORY

One of the Arts Commission meetings must be advertised for the public to participate. Lisa will coordinate through the Ewing Clerk, Kim Macellaro.

BROWNFIELDS

The points we have for this action don't expire until 2021-22; however, we may need to ask Chuck Latini to rewrite the last action for this recertification because it expires on June 30th.



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COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP AND OUTREACH

One of the actions is the Community Education and Outreach which includes our 'Environmental Insights' programs (Joe Mirabella). We have documentation of our advertisements for these events, National Night Out, and Community Days.

DIVERSITY AND EQUITY

This is regarding the diversity on Boards and Commission. Joanne and Pete worked with Jenn Keyes-Maloney about a survey that could be distributed to the current members of the Boards. However, if we can't fill all the vacant positions on our boards, it seems that diversity is a secondary goal. Joanne will check with Jennifer Keyes-Maloney to see if a survey is desired. What about more outreach for more diversity? Pete also asked if photos could be taken of each board at its reorganization.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND RESILIENCY

There are several possible actions for which we may receive points in this category. Joanne will work with Twp. staff to identify actions in which we may qualify for points.

Vulnerable population identifications. – Prospect Heights Fire Department(?) has done work on this. Mike Narducci (OEM) may be a resource, as would be Dee Clark from EMS.

ENERGY

John Hoegl is the Committee Chair for this group. He is interested in energy audits for residential customers, but we don't know whether that will be something we will be able to address.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY FOR MUNICIPAL FACILITIES

We hope Twp. Administration takes advantage of Direct Install program for possible upgrades for the Municipal Building. This would be a major savings, but we are not sure how the requirements of going out for bids for work would affect the process. Joanne asked Sandra Torres to contact Admin.

ENERGY TRACKING AND MANAGEMENT

Could PSE&G possibly help with documentation problems since they are a sponsor of Sustainable Jersey grants?

ENERGY EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

Energy Committee will pursue having a public meeting with speakers. PRAB meetings with local residents should also qualify.

BUY ELECTRICITY FROM A RENEWABLE SOURCE

Third party supplier must provide documentation that at least 20% of the supply comes from renewable sources.

RENEWABLE GOVERNMENT ENERGY AGGREGATION



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Just need to resubmit?

MAKE YOUR TOWN SOLAR FRIENDLY

Woodbridge is the only town that has done this and gotten points. We already have a solar ordinance. We would need to see if it needs anything to meet SJ requirements. We could earn an extra 15 points if we can streamline the solar permit and inspection process. Joanne will work with Jack Daniels from Code Enforcement

There is a good resource to learn if solar might be good for your home; the website Sage.com offers unbiased information on various companies. Joanne is going to check to make sure that the link is on our website.

COMMUNITY SOLAR GARDENS

There is discussion about community solar where they install solar panels that everyone can share the benefits without having to have the panels installed at your home. It can be done over brownfields which is a good solution for an area where no one wants to live but space available.

WASTE MANAGEMENT

PREScription DRUG SAFETY AND DISPOSAL

Prescription drug safety is a priority action and we are good to get points since we have Project Medicine Drop and do the 2 (two) annual special drop off days for prescription drugs with the police department.

RECYCLING AND WASTE REDUCTION EDUCATION AND COMPLIANCE *PRIORITY

We need to re-familiarize ourselves with the recycling ordinance to see changes need to be made to reach SJ's requirements. If we have targeted enforcement is that enough for points or does someone have to go out to do inspections? There is still a lot of confusion on the rules for recycling and maybe we could use the Mayor's 'robo' calls as a good way to give out information on the correct rules to recycle. Sarah will investigate this to see if this would be a possibility with the Administration.

Pizza boxes continue to be a big contaminant. Mel Antler of the Ewing Arts Commission offered a couple of good suggestions to address this ongoing problem – what about creating stickers that could be easily put on pizza boxes as eye-catching reminders that pizza boxes cannot be recycled. Another idea was going to the source of the boxes and getting the manufacturer to print it on the box While a great idea, it may be beyond our scope, but since this is a chronic problem everywhere.... (maybe the Ewing Green Team can take this idea to Domino's/Papa John/Little Caesar's and make an impact nationally!!)

Since recycling has become a major problem (nationally) Administration has asked our group to see if we can help address the contamination issue. We can create an educational outreach program that is multi-faceted – posters, programs, 'wall of shame', stickers for pizza boxes, and educational articles for the Observer. Perhaps we can find ways of penalizing those who are doing their recycling wrong, but in ways that won't be harmful – such as 'oops' stickers. Joe offered to write a quick 'robo' message for the Mayor that people can learn from.



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The Recycling Committee needs to meet before the end of the month so that they can be prepared to get started on many projects.

ADDITIONAL PROJECTS

We know we will get points for paper shredding, the recycle depot and Karen Kissel has offered to do a program on composting – possibly at the library. We get points for being members of EPA Wastewise; Tom Elder takes care of this. We have our grass cutting pamphlet already; we just need DPW to promote it.

We had done a reusable bag program with the Boy Scouts and our student ambassador, Kylie and other students could take just rerun this. It was done at the Farmers Market at Campus Town and the one on the border of Lawrence and Ewing on Spruce Street and Shoprite.

FOOD

Community and school garden, just need to do a write-up. The Township provided tilling, water and portable toilet. The community garden plot is \$5.00 and is advertised in the Ewing Observer. Dorin will do write up for community garden. The extra food from the school garden will need to be utilized perhaps the local food bank or Home Front.

FARMERS MARKET ACTIONS

Market 31 in Campus Town will hopefully continue; unfortunately, it has not been well attended.

GREEN DESIGN

Joanne contacted Jack Daniels from Code Enforcement to see if any of the Twp.'s inspections have taken the needed training. Sarah may be able to contact people in the Township who could hold webinars, and this could earn us points.

LIGHT POLLUTION

It is frustrating that some people leave their outside lights on all hours. It would be better if they just used motion sensors rather than leaving lights on. This action may be for future development.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

BUILDING A HEALTHIER COMMUNITY

Do we do enough? What about our bike ride? 20 points? Caroline volunteered to look at these actions and Ewing policies to see if we qualify. She will also handle the lead documentation in conjunction with the Health Department.

INNOVATIVE COMMUNITY PROJECT (RAIN GARDEN PLUS 3)

RAIN GARDENS



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The rain garden at the municipal fields needs a clean-up and ongoing management of the site must be documented to get credit. Administration has been made aware of the requirement and that some funds for additional planting may be required. Karen Kissel has offered to lead this action.

WELCOME BOOKLET - BIKE TOUR - GARDEN TOUR (BEAUTIFY EWING)?

LAND USE

SUSTAINABLE LAND USE PLEDGE

Need to resubmit to all appropriate boards and departments and show proof of such.

BICYCLE AUDIT

Still good.

BUILD OUT ANALYSIS

This would be useful for a town as built out as ours. Maybe Chuck could help with this. But not necessarily for this go-round.

COMPLETE STREETS

Action needs to be redone; requirements have changed. Assigned to Sarah. Jennifer Keyes-Maloney did this last time.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Is there any desire on the part of the Commission to write a Historic Preservation Plan to become part of our Master Plan?

TRANSIT ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT

Good until 2025.

GREEN BUSINESS

Green Business Recognition Program. This is a priority action. 6 (six) businesses were recognized last time. Evan has one that has already qualified. Home Front is also going to qualify.

Other possible businesses, churches and organizations include:

Heidi's Church, Abiding Presence. She is on their Green Committee. Our Lady of Good Council has solar panels maybe they would be a good candidate. Mercer Arc did some green work using Direct Install funds. Maybe Campus Town businesses would qualify since they are new and might be interested. If we could get 6 (six) before June; it would be ideal. River Horse and Shafer's Gym also may be good to check.

Evan is going to do a write-up on his first green business for the website and FB.



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NATURAL RESOURCES

These actions will mostly be handled by the EC.

NRI/ERI

Still good for certification.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Lee Farnham has volunteered to do the annual report.

SITE PLAN REVIEW

Karen Kissel volunteered to do the write up.

OPEN SPACE PLAN

Joanne will reach out to Chuck to see the status.

WATER CONSERVATION EDUCATION PROGRAM

Rain barrel workshop could possibly count for points, although the action might be too old. Would dual flush toilets installed in the Community Center count; when were they installed?

TREE PROTECTION ORDINANCE

This is currently before the Planning Board.

COMMUNITY FORESTRY PLAN

Annual report needs to be submitted.

TREE HAZARD INVENTORY

Ash tree inventory work can be used. Another town used their EAB inventory work for credit.

TREE PLANTING

Emerald Ash Borer grant planting and Arbor Day could help us qualify.

OPERATIONS AND MANAGEMENT

ADOPT BEHAVIORAL POLICIES

We did this last time and got credit. Send around again?

RECYCLED PAPER

Donna Morgan volunteered to write up.

GREEN GROUNDS MAINTENANCE

What can be done realistically?



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PUBLIC INFORMATION AND ENGAGEMENT

Most of these are very doable. Joanne has been working on them since her employment by the Twp.

MUNICIPAL COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY

Yes

IMPROVE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT

Yes

IMPROVE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN PLANNING AND ZONING.

Yes

ONLINE MUNICIPAL PUBLIC SERVICE SYSTEMS

Yes

DIGITIZING PUBLIC INFORMATION

is there a way to get this information out easily in a cost-effective way?

RESPONSIBILITIES:

Animals – Joanne

Arts – Lisa

Brownfields – Chuck Latini

Community Partnerships and Outreach – Joe

Diversity & Equity – Pete/Jennifer Keyes-Maloney and Joanne

Emergency and Management and Resiliency – Township Staff and Joanne

Energy – John

Food – Dorin

Green Design – Joanne & Jack

Health & Wellness – Caroline

Innovation & Demonstration:

 Welcome Booklet – Caroline and Joanne

 Beautify Ewing – Joanne

Land Use and Transportation – Chuck and Town Council

Local Economies –Green Business – Evan

Natural Resources – Environmental Commission

Operations & Maintenance – Joanne and Township

Public Information & Engagement – Joanne/Rob Green/Sarah

Sustainability & Climate Planning – no work needed.



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Waste Management – Recycling Committee – Lisa/Heidi/Joanne/Evan/John/Charlie Maack/Karen

Composting & Rain Gardens – Karen Kissel

Energy – John/Mark/Evan/Gary/Pete

Township Paper analysis of % recycled – Donna volunteered to take this on.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa K. Feldman