



EWING GREEN TEAM

*Promoting People, the Planet, and Prosperity in
Ewing*



JANUARY 23, 2019 MINUTES

Location: Ewing Senior and Community Center

ATTENDEES

Green Team members denoted with an asterisk*

Kyle Baker
Pete Boughton
Dorin Ciocotisan*
Lisa Feldman*
Heidi Furman*
John Hoegl*
Kylie King*

Karen Kissel
Donna Morgan
Joanne Mullowney*
Laurie Ruffenach
Caroline Steward*
Sarah Steward*
Mark Wetherbee*

INTRODUCTION

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Joanne Mullowney.

Joanne welcomed our two new Green Team members – Heidi Furman and Dorin Ciocotisan. We hope to get them sworn in as well as a couple of current members whose terms are expiring; John Hoegl is one, if possible at the end of the meeting. We still have one opening if anyone knows someone who would be interested, please let Joanne know.

The minutes from the January Retreat were unanimously approved.

Kyle Baker is a new visitor to our meetings. He has been in Ewing for two years and is interested in learning what we do. He would like to learn about our biking events.

STREAM CLEAN UP

Donna Morgan is very interested in outdoor clean-ups and has experience working with the Watershed Institute and has kindly sent Joanne background information on her volunteer experience. Donna volunteered to coordinate our stream clean-up event with the Watershed. The date has been confirmed, April 6th from 9-11:00 am. The location has not been finalized. The Home Depot, the Canal, Watson Park and Banchoff Park were mentioned as good possibilities. Joanne will elicit suggestions



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from Township Administration. Donna will help coordinate the details such as supplies and parking. She will keep us updated as we get closer to the event's date. It was suggested that if we do the clean-up at the Home Depot, we can also tie this into a clean-up at the Johnson Trolley Trail. Another plus of doing the site near the Home Depot is that there is plenty of parking for volunteers. This location is near Waste Management. Mark Wetherbee stated that he has noticed that workers there take water hoses and spray trash, fluids and whatever refuse is in the driveway and parking area and wash this all into the stream nearby in attempt to clean-up their work area. He will attempt to take photos of this obvious 'illegal' stream pollution.

Caroline suggested that a stream clean-up activity might be a good action for neighborhood targeting. She wondered if there might be an association in the area who would be interested in coming out for the clean-up effort. This will be dependent on which stream is ultimately chosen to know if there is a neighborhood we could connect to.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

It's the beginning of a New Year and time to vote for Officers. Joanne Mullowney was once again drafted as Chair for another year. Evan Crumiller was voted in absentia as Vice Chair. Lisa Feldman volunteered for the job of Secretary. Membership Chair – Caroline Steward volunteered to fulfill this role. The officers were voted upon as a block and passed unanimously!

SUSTAINABLE JERSEY GRANT APPLICATION

The Sustainable Jersey grant is quickly coming up and due February 15th. They have grants for \$2K/\$10K and \$20K. Joanne is asking everyone to think about the actions that could we take advantage of for these grants. One suggestion is a recycling grant such as fighting the high contamination. We had discussed getting stickers for pizza boxes since this seems to be an item that many people put in recycling and it's usually contaminated with grease and food and should not be in recycling. We could do letters to restaurants that do take-out food and do a campaign during a popular event such as Halloween when lots of people get pizza delivered. The Recycling Committee will continue to work on the details. The February 15th deadline is not too far off, so we must work quickly to meet the time frame.

UPCOMING GT GARDENING FOR WILDLIFE PROGRAMS

We have two wildlife events coming up. 'Gardening for Wildlife in the Suburban Landscape,' will be an introduction to the National Wildlife Federation's Community Wildlife Project by our own Joanne



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Mullowney and Glen Steinberg, Chair of TCNJ's English Department and longtime gardener. This will be held on February 25th at the Ewing Branch Library. They will give an overview of the program, explain why it is important and how to certify your own garden. They will then show how Ewing is working to become a certified community. On March 25th we will run another program at the Ewing Library featuring naturalist Mary Ann Borge from **Lambertville Goes Wild** entitled "Gardens with Buzz" on how to attract birds, bees and butterflies to your garden.

2018 ANNUAL REPORT

Joanne is working on the 2018 Annual Report and has received most of the committee reports. She is including how we have met the goals in our strategic plan. Once it is completed, she will send to the members of the Town Council and the Administration and include in the newsletter that gets emailed out. This can also be helpful in getting points for Sustainable Jersey in showing that we are active.

TREES

A long-time goal of the Environmental Commission is that of earning a Tree City USA designation. There are several requirements that Ewing must meet to accomplish this. (1) Is an Arbor Day celebration. Evan coordinated this last year and volunteered to do so again this year. Last year our two boards contributed funds to purchase a tree- a Princeton Elm, which we had planted by Dan Burke's landscaping company at the Ewing Township Historic Preservation Society. We then had a small planting celebration on Arbor Day. Including the plaque, it cost about \$25 per person. We thought that it was a fitting way to commemorate the service of our two boards for years to come. The tree was a nice size tree and did very well. We would like to continue this every year as a tradition. A sheet was passed around for everyone who is interested in donating for the Arbor Day event (tree planting and plaque) to sign up. (2) Is a tree ordinance. The Environmental Commission is currently at work on this effort.

GREEN TEAM 10TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

Ewing Green Team is celebrating a milestone birthday this May 27th (Rachel Carson's birthday); we will be 10 years old and we discussed the possibility of birthday celebration. Joanne saved a lot of materials over the years and she and Lisa are going to put together a scrapbook. Should we plan a special event to celebrate? Caroline volunteered to work with Joanne and Lisa on planning some sort of event – to be determined.



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Dorin said that he had video experience and could use those materials as a basis for a video along with statements and photos from members. We gratefully accepted. When completed, we can post the video to YouTube and embed it on our website. This would indeed be something special to help us celebrate our birthday!

BREAK OUT MEETINGS

Many of the subcommittees did not have a chance to meet since the Retreat so we're going to use some of our meeting time for three of the subcommittees to discuss their plans for re-certification, Energy, Recycling and Sarah and Joanne's work on a number of actions.

ENERGY COMMITTEE

The Direct Install project is continuing and now ready to have committee members start making calls to owners who are listed on a spreadsheet of Ewing businesses. Sandra Torres is the coordinator from Tri-State Light and Energy, the exclusive company for Mercer County assigned to work with local businesses.

Gary Keel had participated in the program for his own business and he gave a great presentation to other business owners from his perspective. It was suggested we create a video with Gary in his role as business owner and John introducing Gary and asking key questions that could be used to present this program to new prospective businesses. Sandra Torres can help with the script. Gary may not be available until after tax season in April.

Mercer County Sustainability Coalition had gotten a grant that the various Green Teams in the group are sharing for the Direct Install program. We could use our portion of the monies to produce the video. We could embed this on our website as well to help promote the program. Karen Kissel knows someone who could help us with a video, and Dorin also has experience doing videos.

RECYCLING COMMITTEE

The committee had met but could not remember everything that had been discussed. Karen Kissel is going to do a presentation on backyard composting. She will discuss the various stages of composting and at this time not sure which ways would be best for presenting this. Would we do a poster, handouts, emails? Karen debated demonstration methods; whether a manual demonstration on how to create different types would work better than giving a Power Point presentation. Is there a lot of need for a composting demonstration still? What about people who live in apartments and don't have



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their own gardens? How do we help them compost? One group held a contest, comparing the most materials kept out of the landfill in a five-gallon container.

It was suggested that we might see if we could use the Ewing Community Gardens as the site for our composting presentation. The Community Gardens has three separate composting set-ups but unfortunately people do not maintain them as regularly as needed. The invasive weed, Mugwort, has been dumped in them in the past rendering them almost worthless.

We understand that Princeton's food composting program has been suspended because of problems, but Lawrence's food waste program is still going on. Customers pay \$38.50 per month for weekly pick-up of food waste containers. Originally, they had to get 200 households to sign up or it would not continue, but though they did not meet this threshold, the program is still ongoing.

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

- February 2nd - in Pennington (Hopewell/Pennington Green Team) there will be a styrene/Styrofoam collection from 12-3 at the school on Main Street.
- The Green Team donated a check for \$650 to Arc Mercer from the bike ride in September.
- Friday, January 25th - The Mercer County Sustainability Coalition will have their monthly meeting at the Lawrence Library from 12-1:30

Meeting was adjourned at 8:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Feldman

Lisa Feldman, Secretary
Ewing Green Team