



# EWING GREEN TEAM

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



**MARCH 27, 2019 MINUTES**

*Location: Ewing Senior and Community Center*

## ATTENDEES

Green Team members denoted with an asterisk\*

Evan Crumiller\*  
Lisa Feldman\*  
Heidi Furman\*  
John Hoegl\*  
Lindsay Litwin

Amanda Morgan  
Donna Morgan  
Joanne Mullowney\*  
Caroline Steward\*  
Mark Wetherbee\*

## INTRODUCTION

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 PM by Joanne Mullowney.

The minutes from the February meeting were not available.

We have 2 students visiting from The College of New Jersey for a Sustainability class.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### MCIA HAZARDOUS WASTE DISPOSAL DAY

MCIA is sponsoring a hazardous waste disposal day this Saturday, March 30th.

### STREAM CLEANUP

The stream clean-up will be on April 6th from 9-11 am at Home Depot. The group of volunteers from the Watershed is confirmed. We hope to have a good turnout from the Green Team. Thanks to Donna for organizing our first stream clean-up.

### ARBOR DAY

The Arbor Day celebration will be on Friday, April 26th or Saturday, April 27th. If it's on Saturday, we will have more people attending. Last year we planted a tree with a commemorative plaque at the Benjamin Temple House and wanted to do it again this year. We have not heard back from the Ewing Township Historic



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Preservation Society. We had a sign-up sheet for people interested in donating for the tree to be planted and the plaque. Did everyone who was interested sign-up?

Dan Burke, from the Environmental Commission, will again pick out the tree and have his crew plant the tree. Was it \$175 last year for the tree, the crew to plant it and the plaque? Once we know how many people are signed up, we can figure the cost per person. We think it was \$20-25 per person last year.

## SHRED DAY

Shred Day is May 4th 9:00-1:00 at the Municipal Building. We will have a sign-up for the event.

## GREEN TEAM BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

The Green Team's 10th Birthday is coming up, around the end of May. We will have a celebration, but we may wait until after June and our submission for re-certification to Sustainable Jersey. Working in conjunction with the Arts Commission and their Featured Artists' program; we have reserved the two hallways and central lobby area in the Municipal Building during the months of July and August. We want to showcase the work we have done these past 10 years displaying posters, flyers, various memorabilia that highlight our accomplishments. We can have a reception to introduce the display. Joanne, Lisa and Caroline will be working on the celebration.

## GREEN TEAM VACANCY

We have sad news for the group – Dorin just got a job in California and will be leaving shortly. We're happy for him, but sad for us. He was a great addition to our group. He said he would try to get the video completed for our birthday celebration.

## REPORT ON GARDENS WITH BUZZ PROGRAM

Gardens with Buzz, the presentation by Mary Ann Borge, gardener from Lambertville, was a great success. We had a turnout of over 48 people. There were people out in the hall that didn't fit in the room. This subject works very well with one of our major projects which is gardening for wildlife. This is the program where we get our community certified by the National Wildlife Federation. To become certified in the program, Ewing needs to accumulate 250 points in certified gardens from private properties, public spaces and schools. Each garden should support birds, insects, small animals... by providing food, water, cover and places to raise young. We currently have about 67 points. School gardens are worth 5 points, public spaces are worth 3 points, and private homes are worth 1 point.

Mary Ann has allowed Joann to download her presentation. Our public presentations regarding gardening have been very popular, striking huge interest in the public. Lee Farnham from the Environmental Commission wants



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to do presentation on trees, maybe Emerald Ash Borer, or more preferable subject something more general that would appeal to more people.

A question was asked, how had we advertised to get such large audiences - we had advertised  $\frac{1}{4}$  page in the Observer, Facebook, our webpage, and newsletters sent to our growing list of gardeners. Signs at the library were also posted telling about these events.

The next event about building rain gardens will be held on Tuesday, May 14<sup>th</sup> at the Community Center where larger audiences are easier to handle. Kory Kreiseder from the Watershed will be giving the presentation. It will be interesting to see if we get the same good number of people, or was it the library that drew the people?

The library asked our group to do the first talk; they put it on their website. The **Garden Buzz** they did not. Mary Ann Borge volunteered to do the talk. The people from the Community Gardens asked for a presentation.

## FIRST SUNDAY FILMS

The Watershed has films the 1st Sunday of each month. A couple of the films that were presented are available on Youtube. Joanne will show two of the films tonight on the benefits of native plants. The films highlight the root systems of native plants which are very deep. This helps with the water retention.

## INTERNATIONAL DARK SKIES WEEK

March 31-April 7 is International Dark Skies Week. This highlights the importance of light pollution of our night skies and that we need to be more aware of the harm that excessive and wasteful lights at night are causing. A discussion on pros and cons of outdoor lighting followed.

## NOTES

- Clean Ocean Action in West Windsor will ban straws and plastic bags. We need to calculate the savings. Just telling people it's the right thing to do does not work for a successful campaign.
- Need more Mercer County Bags for Shred Day in May. Lisa has a partial box will see if she can get more.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### ARTS

We need a  $\frac{1}{4}$  page ad advertising an open public meeting to discuss ongoing artists' survey. We are always looking to add more Ewing artists to our directory, and this will help us to connect with more Ewing artists. Either the May or the June Arts Commission meetings will be advertised in the Observer as a meeting to focus on the ongoing search for artists. As long as this is scheduled before June, we can still submit for SJ points for this action and get an incomplete and resubmit in September.



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## NEIGHBORHOOD COMMITTEE

The Welcome Booklet will be submitted to SJ as an Innovative Demonstration Project by Caroline Steward. It was suggested that Caroline write a generic letter to Realtors explaining about our Welcome Book and asking them to help pay for the cost of printing copies. They will be able to keep copies in their offices as useful and beautiful introductions to living in Ewing. Minutemen Press has always been helpful and budget-friendly for us; they have moved to new location next to Rita's on Parkway Ave in Marazzo's Shopping Center.

This would be one way to afford getting copies printed. Caroline will also get additional business cards printed with the URL address for the Welcome Book. This is a great tool to give out at our events when talking about the Welcome Book.

## RECYCLING

Heidi attended a MCIA Board Meeting and spoke. She addressed our concerns for the lack of educational materials, especially to help address the contamination. Dan Napoleon told her that he planned on coming to Ewing to address our group.

While we are concerned about the problems with recycling, we can start writing the report for Sustainable Jersey. Our largest obstacle to getting all the points (60) possible in this category; is the ongoing issue of enforcement and that it needs to be included in the Township's Ordinances. We can get points for Shred Days, Project Medicine Drop, grass recycling flyer that we can have reprinted and given out at Shred Days. We can also have the helpful map with various recycling locations reprinted and given out. It looks like 45 points are good; 15 doubtful because of lack of compliance and enforcement. Changing the ordinance would require research and buy in, as well as Council approval.

## GREEN BUSINESS RECOGNITION

This effort is spearheaded by Evan Crumiller and is one of the three priority actions required by Sustainable Jersey for Silver certification. Evan reported that we have three businesses qualifying – Surface Technology, and Slocum's Bowling looks good. River Horse is interested, as are HomeFront and Buxton's. We're aiming for the 1st Tuesday in May for the presentation to Town Council.

## ENERGY COMMITTEE

Energy – Direct Install program; committee people are now going door-to-door to reach people. The list that they had is not accurate. The letter from the Mayor; is it being distributed?

It has been suggested that we create a write up for home owners adding solar to their homes. The Solar process write-up will help make anyone thinking of adding solar look simple. It will help make the approval a 2-part action easy to facilitate. We need to ensure the solar ordinance meets these criteria. Try to make code enforcement process easier to navigate for home owner. Woodbridge is the only municipality that has done this.



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Joanne is going to create a simple check list to help make the inspections go more smoothly. Caroline Steward had solar installed and it did not go smoothly and was very frustrating. She thinks this is a good idea to help anyone new going forward.

## GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

On March 30th, 10 TCNJ students will help with rain garden clean-up at the Municipal Building. Karen Kissel is in charge of the project.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

*Lisa Feldman*

Lisa Feldman, Secretary  
Ewing Green Team