



EWING GREEN TEAM

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



MAY 22, 2019 MINUTES

Location: Ewing Senior and Community Center

PRESENT

PRESENT

Malissa Arnold
Evan Crumiller
Lisa Feldman
Heidi Furman
John Hoegl
Kylie King
Joe Mirabella
Joanne Mullowney
Mark Wetherbee

ABSENT

Dorin Ciocostisan (resigning)
Garry Keel (unexcused)
Caroline Steward (unexcused)
Sarah Steward (unexcused)

There were no members of the Public present.

INTRODUCTION

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 PM by Joanne Mullowney.

The minutes from the April and February meetings were not available. Joanne apologized for the former. She did not have time to upload the minutes sent from Lisa for sharing with members

ANNOUNCEMENTS

JOINT EGT/ART COMMISSION MEETING JUNE 4

The Arts Commission's June 4th meeting had a special ad in the Ewing Observer inviting the Public to attend and will be a collaboration between the Green Team and Arts Commission. This meeting is to help meet our requirements for Sustainable Jersey certification. GT members are asked to attend as they can support this action.

The meeting will help get public input on the Creative Assets of Ewing, our on-going search for artists living and working in Ewing. Lisa Feldman, the Green Team liaison on the Arts Commission will run the portion of the meeting to get public feedback. In addition to the search for artists, Lisa will update the group on her first



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meeting with the planning committee at The College of New Jersey for Community Fest. We had hopes that this event could change to include more artists and crafters and take on a new creative element; however, this might not happen so Lisa would like to get public opinion on Ewing having its own Arts Festival.

Joanne asked Lisa to write an article about the June 4th Arts Commission's public meeting for the Green Team website. It would be helpful if Lisa could get it to Joanne by June 1st.

GARDEN TOUR

The Garden Tour 'Through the Garden Gate' this year will be Saturday and Sunday, June 22nd and Sunday June 23rd. Saturday hours are 10-5 and Sunday the hours will be 12-4. This year there will be artists demonstrating their work in some of the gardens. Currently we have between 12-15 gardens and 4 (four) artists. Lisa will once again reach out to the Arts Commission to see if they know any artists who might be interested in participating.

The partnering organizations (West Trenton Garden Club, Girl Scouts and EGT) need to cover the table at the ESCC where people will buy their tickets. The Green Team needs a couple of volunteers to cover 9:30-1:00 shift on Saturday.

TRAILS

On May 31st there will be an event to celebrate the new .6 miles of trail opening for the Lawrence-Hopewell Trail. The ceremony will be at 11:00. This is a critical segment connecting ETS to the trail. There will also be an optional bike or walk after the ceremony.

Mercer County is also working on a new trail, the Great Western Bike Trail that will provide great access to neighborhoods and recreational facilities; they received a grant for over \$2 Million. This will be a great addition for Ewing, Pennington, Hopewell and Lawrence.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

REUSABLE BAG PROJECT

This is a project that the Boy Scouts had headed up before. Kylie and her fellow EHS Environmental Club members will be running this project under the direction of Laurie Ruffennach and GT volunteers. Students will set up at the Ewing Shoprite and ask people to take our survey about their plastic bag usage. When the person finishes the survey to thank them, we give them one of the Ewing Township reusable bags. Joanne wrote a letter to the manager at the Shoprite to confirm that we will be allowed to do this. We need someone from the Green Team to be there as well. Mark and Joe have volunteered to be there. It will be on Saturday, June 1st. Malissa Arnold has agreed to do the write-up for Sustainable Jersey. This will be a final push before our deadline for filing our re-certification application which is June 2nd.

GREEN BUSINESS RECOGNITION



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Tuesday, May 28th is the next Town Council meeting and will include the presentation for the Green Business Recognition program honoring the new recipients. The two new companies are HomeFront and Surface Technology, Inc. The meeting will begin at 6:30 and the presentation will be the first item on their agenda.

TREES

The tree planting for Arbor Day was a big success. It had a very nice turnout by members of the Environmental Commission, the Green Team and Town Council. Mayor Steinmann officiated. Evan was the organizer for this and is keeping a list of people who have paid their \$20 contribution. Dan Burke from the Environmental Commission laid out \$270 for the two trees and their installation. Part of the cost was special fencing to keep out the deer. Evan had nice bronze plaques made for EGT/EEC tree commemorating the occasion and that the trees were donated by the GT and EC.

GRANT ANNOUNCEMENT

Joanne, with the assistance of Ann and Lee Farnham, applied for and received notice that we were awarded a \$1500 ANJEC grant to establish a new pollinator Garden for the front of the Community Center. Ann Farnham spent hours redrawing Joanne's plan from Excel in her Landscaping AutoCAD program, so it had a professional look. Lee helped proof the written submission and offered numerous suggestions for inclusion. The timing of the grant is a little bit late for planting this spring and, also because of our SJ submission. Joanne will work with Ted Forst, the ESCC director, on arranging for the planting as well as purchasing the plants. There had been some discussion about arranging for student/Girl Scout/Boy Scout assistance as this would be an excellent educational opportunity for them. Joanne will help supervise the project but will not do the planting.

NEW BUSINESS

ATTENDANCE

We discussed poor attendance at our Green Team meetings and lack of notice from members who cannot attend. Other boards and commissions enforce a required notification policy whereby if a member has 3 (three) meetings without excused absences; the member can be removed from the Commission. We discussed enforcing these attendance requirements also. We have members who miss meetings without notifying the Chair or Vice Chair that they would not be attending. This has become particularly difficult while we've been working on our recertification. Moving forward, beginning with this meeting, members' names will be listed and if the member did not notify the Chair or Vice Chair about not being able to attend; the member's name will have the notation that this was an 'unexcused' absence. We all understand that things come up and you have to miss a meeting, but there is no excuse for failing to let the Officers know.

MEMBERSHIP



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An on-going issue is the need to get new people involved in the Green Team. How can we get new members, especially younger people to join our efforts? It is concerning about the future of the Team.

GREEN TEAM BIRTHDAY

Tonight's meeting is just about the 10th anniversary of the Green Team. The original meeting was May 27th, Rachel Carson's, birthday. It was started by John Hoegl, Lee Farnham, and Pete Boughton. We will be celebrating this milestone at either the end of June or beginning of July. Joanne, Lisa and Caroline will be planning something to mark the occasion. TBA.

The Green Team will be featured in the Municipal Building's two hallways and lobby on the 2nd floor where the Featured Artists Program is normally displayed. We will have posters, memorabilia and items on display which highlight all the work we have accomplished these last 10 years. We are thinking to coincide the opening of this with the 10th anniversary celebration.

EWING'S SUSTAINABLE JERSEY SUBMISSION

UPDATE ON ACTION STATUS

Malissa will do the write-up for the Reusable Bag program. Since we are tight on time, Malissa can go into the previous write-up and update with new figures. Mark will be there to take the pictures. Joe will supervise and bring the bags.

The Environmental Commission and Site Review write-up needs to be done. But first they need to complete their Annual Report. Joe will do the 300 word write-up.

Community Forestry Management Plan – Lee Farnham met with Jim McManimon and the Township has to supply the financials and then it has to go to DEP for their approval.

Joanne spoke to the Health Department about the lead action and the vulnerable population of Ewing. Joanne met with the Public Health Nurse for a 2-hour meeting. Thanks to the Shared Services with Mercer County there is a whole booklet written about the vulnerable population and it will be very useful in our documentation to SJ.

Chuck Latini has been working on the Bike and Open Space Plans, but we are not sure where we stand on this for submission. Joanne will contact him. A Complete Streets Resolution was passed last July or August but we're not sure why this was done as there already was a Complete Streets Resolution on the books. Joanne will inquire from Sarah.

Donna Morgan complete the write-up for recycled paper action. Thank you, Donna.



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The Green Business Recognition Program is on the next Town Council's agenda. We will have to upload the Town Council Agenda minutes and pictures of the ceremony presenting the proclamations to the two new inductees, HomeFront and Surface Technology, Inc.

We're going to write-up the water conservation action. We're using the rain barrel and rain garden programs and the stream clean-up for our documentation.

The Tree Ordinance went before Council for the first time in early May. They sent it to the Planning Board. After review there it will come back before Council for a 2nd reading. We are the only community in Mercer County without a tree protection ordinance. For now, we will upload the Town Council agenda minutes to get points for this. Joanne will do the write-up.

Joanne wrote up the action for Making Your Town Solar Friendly. She met with Ewing's Fire Chiefs. They will send her proof of the fire training for the fire departments for roofs that have solar panels. Once she gets that information she will finish writing up the action.

John Hoegl will complete the write up and documentation for the Green Fest and 'greening' of the Green Fest since he was Ewing's representative on the Green Fest's planning team. We are still waiting for the important financial documentation from Sustainable Lawrence team. The monies for the fest are funneled through Sustainable Lawrence since they are the only 501 (C)3 member of the Coalition.

John Hoegl is also writing up the Energy action item for Direct Install. The group is now going door-to-door to businesses rather than having another presentation. John also did a presentation at the NJAC Annual Conference and will include this in his write-up.

Joanne will do the write-up for Emergency Planning, having received information from that office from Mike Narducci and Julia D'Amico.

The Arts actions are done.

The Welcome Guide is written up under Innovative Demonstration Project #1 and Caroline has done the write-up.

Innovative Demonstration Project #2 is the Bike Tour and Pete Boughton wrote that action narrative.

Innovative Demonstration Project 3 will be handled by Heidi. She will do the 300-word narrative for our beautification efforts including the Garden Tour.



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A number of GT people met on the weekends to go over what needs to be done. Evan and Lisa have been proofing our submissions to the SJ site online. There are still 29 actions that are incomplete. We're just about a week away from the deadline for submission and concerned that we have not heard from a number of people.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Feldman

Lisa Feldman, Secretary
Ewing Green Team