



EWING GREEN TEAM

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



AUGUST 28, 2019 MINUTES

Location: Ewing Senior and Community Center

Present

Evan Crumiller
John Hoegl
Joe Mirabella
Lisa Feldman
Heidi Furman

Absent

Joanne Mullowney (excused)
Caroline Steward (not excused)
Sarah Steward (not excused)
Garry Keel (not excused)
Mark Wetherbee (not excused)
Malissa Arnold (not excused)
Kylie King (not excused)

Guests

Pete Boughton
Donna Morgan
Beverly Keese-Kelley

INTRODUCTION

The meeting was brought to order at 7:05 pm by Evan Crumiller.

MINUTES

There was no quorum, so previous meeting minutes were not approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ARTS COMMITTEE

Lisa Feldman reported that the Scarecrow Committee has been very busy. In addition to our annual Scarecrow Contest that we hold at the Community and Senior Center, this year we are introducing a Scarecrow Scavenger Hunt. The committee working on this has been meeting every 2 weeks this summer since there is a lot of work necessary to starting an event like this. We are asking businesses and organizations throughout Ewing to host Scarecrows and residents will follow clues to find them all. There will be a cash prize of \$200 for the winner. We have been very pleased with the positive reception this has been receiving. At this time, we have 12 businesses who have agreed to host a scarecrow.

We are also continuing our annual Scarecrow contest that is held during the annual Trunk-or-Treat festivities at the Community and Senior Center. We are excited to be expanding the day's festivities adding new features and expanding the hours from 1-4:00 pm. We're adding music and storytelling with Tim and Jennifer Hoh, Ewing entertainers and adding to the kid's crafts. We're pleased to announce that Sims Metal Management, a large and well-known metal recycler, is generously donating \$385 to the event. The owner of the company is originally from Ewing and is happy to help us in our efforts to make Ewing a better more sustainable place to live. They are also offering to help us with volunteers at our different events.



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BIKE RIDE

Pete Boughton is a member of this committee and is reporting since Gary Keel is not here tonight. This year's itinerary is up on the website for people to check out. This year the route is 12 miles long and will hopefully appeal to many riders since it is not really long. There will be (3) stops during the ride: 1) Village on the Green, 2) Elks Lodge, and 3) Fasolino Field.

The ride starts at Campus Town, Panera Bread's parking lot on Saturday, September 21st, the same day as TCNJ's Community Fest. People can register online (fee of \$3.00) or they can save the \$3 and sign up at the Community Center. The \$20 registration fee will be donated to HomeFront. There is no rain date.

ENERGY COMMITTEE

John Hoegl has submitted all the paperwork for the Sustainable Jersey certification.

Regarding the Direct Install program which is a grant program to help small businesses to upgrade their facility's energy systems, i.e. heating, air conditioning, lighting and save a lot of money. The Mercer County Sustainability Coalition has had a grant of \$10K to be shared with the various municipalities to help promote this program. The grant is from Sustainable Jersey. Since the Coalition has done nothing as yet with the grant money a one-year extension has been filed.

John, Mark Wetherbee and Pete Boughton are on the Energy Committee and hope to access some of the \$10K grant money to go directly to businesses to personally encourage interest. Their last public meeting only had 3 businesses attend so they feel going directly to the businesses may be more fruitful than trying to advertise for another public meeting.

On September 19th Mercer County Office of Economic Development's Director, Anthony Carabelli, Jr. will be hosting a workshop to promote the Direct Install Program. The speaker will be Sandra Torres of Tri-State Lighting. This will be held at the Boathouse Marina in the Mercer County Park in West Windsor, from 8-10 am. Lisa Feldman works at the County and will forward the September 19th Direct Install flyer to all the members of the Green Team.

COMMUNITY FEST

TCNJ's annual Community Fest is coming up on Saturday, September 21st. We need to discuss what we plan on doing in our booth and who can volunteer to help during the day's event. Evan, Lisa, Heidi volunteered, and we know Joanne will want to be there. Beverly Keese-Kelley has also offered to help several hours during the day. We will send out a 'Sign-up Genius' to make sure we have coverage.

We will do the 'Trash Toss' game, feature the Welcome Guide, the Scarecrow Scavenger Hunt and Contest and perhaps the Wildlife Garden Habitat. TCNJ is very organized in the set-up and assigns a time for each group to get there and get their stuff to their booth. At this point, we do not know what time we are assigned. The event starts at 10 and runs to 4:00. Breakdown is also very well organized in getting stuff back to cars.

SUSTAINABLE JERSEY CERTIFICATION REVIEW

Ewinggreenteam.org

Meetings: 4th Wednesdays, 7 p.m. Ewing Senior and Community Center, 999 Lower Ferry Rd., Ewing

Contact us: ewinggreenteam@gmail.com



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Evan went over what we can look at to fix and resubmit for our recertification due in early September. Lisa already resubmitted her Creative Assets report that needed to be redone. Also, the Reusable Bag project needs a slight update. Sustainable Jersey is also looking for long-term goals which we need to include in our write up. They would like 3-4 goals explaining why we took action to educate Ewing residents about the importance of switching from using plastic bags to reusable bags:

- Less plastic in waste stream
- Harmful to wildlife
- Contaminates recycling

State of recycling in Mercer County, according to Freeholder Lucy Walter is fine. Freeholder Walter spoke with Heidi at the 10th anniversary party of the Green Team.

However, our personal experience contradicts this. We see the problems and contamination in recycling and don't agree that recycling is doing okay. We believe a vast majority of Ewing recycling is ending up in the landfill and this is not acceptable.

Heidi traveled in Europe this summer and people there accept the responsibilities of recycling and reducing waste. We believe manufacturers in the US should take responsibility and help with the costs of reducing plastic packaging and waste. We just can't get people to get it right. We all agree we need much more education for the public and we're told MCIA is working on this, but we never see anything happen.

Thanks to everyone for the successful 10th Anniversary celebration at the Ewing Municipal Building on Wednesday, August 21st. The meeting adjourned 7:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Feldman