



# EWING GREEN TEAM

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



## OCTOBER 23, 2019 MINUTES

*LOCATION: EWING SENIOR AND COMMUNITY CENTER*

### **Present**

Joanne Mullowney  
John Hoegl  
Joe Mirabella  
Lisa Feldman  
Heidi Furman  
Caroline Steward  
Kylie King  
Mark Wetherbee

### **Absent**

Malissa Arnold (not excused)  
Garry Keel (not excused)  
Evan Crumiller  
Sarah Steward (not excused)

### **Guests**

May Carter  
Selma Benkhosha  
Anjali Thakker, AmeriCorps NJ  
Watershed Ambassador

## INTRODUCTION

The Meeting began at 7:10 pm. The Green Team minutes for September 25<sup>th</sup> were approved.

## GUESTS

The new NJ AmeriCorps Ambassador, Anjali Thakker, was introduced. She was interested in learning about projects that she could help EGT with such as another Rain Barrel Workshop. We held one 2 years ago and it was very well attended. She will be able to help provide donated barrels. We will have to raise the additional funds or bill the attendees an estimated \$20 - \$25 apiece.

She will be running a stream clean-up on November 9<sup>th</sup> at TCNJ. The exact location is still being decided. They would welcome any volunteers from the Green Team to help and will let us know further details. Kylie, our Student Ambassador from Ewing High School will speak to the Environmental Club to see if they would also like to participate.

Another guest attending tonight's meeting, May Carter, is a citizen looking for help to address trees that were supposed to be replaced for ones removed during Ewing High School's parking lot renovations. She understood that there was an agreement at the High School that trees were to be replaced due to the redesign of new parking areas. She is looking to learn more about when this will happen. It was suggested she contact Dennis Nettleton, the Ewing School Business Administrator, to get details.

## STUDENT AMBASSADOR

Kylie was asked if Ewing High School students have participated in any of the well-publicized student activism following the lead of Swedish student, Greta Thurnberg's environmental climate leadership. Kylie explained that there is interest to do this here in Ewing High School, but to participate they are going to school authorities to get permission to do this without serious punitive repercussions.

## REPORTS



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## NEW POLLINATOR GARDEN AT ESCC

Joanne acknowledged and thanked everyone who participated on Saturday, September 28<sup>th</sup> planting the new native pollinator garden. It was very well attended with about 25 volunteers including both Boy and Girl Scouts and adults from the community. The plantings were in the front of the Center along the wall (in-between the front and side entrances). There is another area to be planted, but the circular area where there will be more plantings is where a loose wire was discovered and needs to be researched by PSE&G before any further work can be safely continued. More native plants will be planted in this area as well. So far, all the plants look like they are doing well.

## SHRED DAY – FALL 2019

Joanne thanked everyone who participated in the Fall Shred Day. We shared information about Recycle Coach, the statewide app that registers people by their home address & gives reminders about recycling dates that are specific to that address. It's also a great resource to ask about items that you're not sure where they go for recycling. Enter the item and Recycle Coach will show where/how you can recycle it.

## COMMUNITY FEST

We had a good turnout of EGT folks at CommFest once again but were disappointed with the lack of progress on either recycling at the event or getting more arts involved. This was the first year a member of the Green Team was invited to participate in the planning, Lisa Feldman. There were only 3 booths that were involved in the arts. The one new attendee, Marcel Juillerat, had attended the public meeting to promote the arts. Sadly, he did not have any sales and said this venue was not a good one for the promotion of the arts.

## HOUSEKEEPING ITEMS

Joanne asked the group to determine their preference for the monthly meeting start time for 2020. The group's consensus was to keep the 7:00pm time. Joanne will confirm with the Clerk's Office.

We need to start thinking about officer elections and renewals of people whose terms are expiring. Lisa Feldman, Gary Keel, Joe Mirabella, Joanne Mullowney and Caroline Steward's terms all expire December 2019. We also need to get new people to replace non-active members. It's in our own best interests to find people who will be involved and willing to work on various projects. Donna Morgan is willing to be officially appointed. It would be good if we could find someone new affiliated with TCNJ.

John Hoegl suggested we think about merging the Environmental Commission with the Green Team since both groups have difficulty recruiting new members. Skill sets for qualified candidates can be specialized. Perhaps we could recruit at various businesses in Ewing looking for scientific backgrounds to join our efforts. We could also write to different companies asking if members of their company Green Teams would be interested in coming to one of our meetings.

## ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY

We don't hold a November meeting since it falls right before Thanksgiving. We normally have our holiday party the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of December. In the past we invited other groups and people who help our team

**Ewinggreenteam.org**

**Contact us: [ewinggreenteam@gmail.com](mailto:ewinggreenteam@gmail.com)**

**Meetings: 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays, 7 p.m. Ewing Senior and Community Center, 999 Lower Ferry Rd., Ewing**



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during the year, but few attend. This year we decided to hold it at a local restaurant, meeting briefly at the Community Center at 6:30 to fulfill our meeting requirement for anyone in the public interested in attending, but then adjourn to meet at whatever restaurant we agree upon. Suggestions included Sal da Forte's, Marsilio's, Revere, or Erini's. Joanne will send out an email to get people to vote on their preference.

## SUSTAINABLE JERSEY

We just received notification that we have been re-certified Silver with a total of 490 points and 4 priority action items. One art project is still outstanding. The luncheon to present the certifications will be held in Atlantic City during the NJLM Conference. The cost to attend is \$35. The Township may pay for Green Team members to attend. Joanne, Heidi and John may go.

## SCARECROW EVENT

This coming Saturday is our last big event of the year, our 6<sup>th</sup> annual Scarecrow Contest tied in with the Trunk-or-Treat festivities hosted by the Township. This year we only have 12 scarecrows as part of the Contest. The winner of the 1<sup>st</sup> annual Scarecrow Scavenger Hunt will also be drawn. We will be doing kids' crafts, music and storytelling, hosting 2 trunks, & serving refreshments; so, we can use all the help possible. All GT members were asked to give a hand and supply candy for our trunks.

## OPEN SPACE PLAN

Chuck Latini, the Twp. Planner, is seeking input from residents on open space in Ewing. Go to the Township's home page to learn more and take the online survey. Joanne and Joe Mirabella, as chairs of the Green Team and Environmental Commission, met with Chuck Latini to give feedback. Where should the Township spend its money asking the public to help prioritize spending. This will fulfill a long-time EGT ask of the Township.

## RECYCLING UPDATE

The MCIA has produced a new brochure about recycling resources in Mercer County but Ewing's data was not accurate. We need to send updates to the County Rep at the MSCS meeting asap.

## TREE ORDINANCE UPDATE

Lee Farnham of the Environmental Commission attended the last Town Council meeting and asked about the status of the Tree Ordinance. He was referred to the Planning Board to be discussed on November 7<sup>th</sup>. Members of the Green Team planned to attend to show how important this issue is to members.

## REPORTS FROM OTHER MUNICIPAL BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

### TOWN COUNCIL

They discussed the privatization of Emergency Services.

[Ewinggreenteam.org](http://Ewinggreenteam.org)

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## EWING HIGH

Kylie reported that the Ewing Environmental Club is collaborating with Trenton High on some projects and also still working on cleaning up their courtyard garden. They still have problems with recycling, County won't take it?

## CLOSING

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

*Lisa Feldman*

Secretary