



EWING GREEN TEAM

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



RETREAT MINUTES JANUARY 4, 2020

Ewing Senior and Community Center

ATTENDEES

Malissa Arnold
Pete Boughton
Evan Crumiller
Lisa Feldman

John Hoegl
Garry Keel
Kylie King
Joe Mirabella

Donna Morgan
Joanne Mullowney
Mark Wetherbee

INTRODUCTION

The meeting, to plan for the activities of the coming year began at 9:20 am.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Our final Sustainable Jersey Points for re-certification were 510. This was a larger total than in 2016 when we won the Sustainability Champion award for medium-sized communities.
- New Appointees – Donna Morgan's name is on the Reorganization Agenda to be officially appointed. We still have two vacancies. We also have several GT members who need to be 're-upped'
- Election of officers at the 1st regular GT meeting of January (January 22). The EGT needs YOU!!!
- EGT Annual Report – can subcommittees send write ups on their activities to Joanne ASAP so that she might begin writing the 2019 Annual Report?
- SJ grant opportunity – application due Feb 14th. There will be (4) \$20,000, eight (8) \$10,000, and twenty (20) \$2,000 grants to support efforts related to Sustainable Jersey actions. Ideas? Keep in mind that we would probably like to do a community revisioning in 2020 following our recertification effort and that that would make for a great grant proposal. So, we would need something short term that we could complete before the beginning of next year to enable us to submit for another grant.

BRAINSTORMING FOR GRANT OPTIONS

Joanne recommend revisiting reviewing the strategic plan from our 2014 Community Visioning. That was run with the assistance of a \$10K grant from Sustainable Jersey. We had facilitators who helped run the event and organize our results. Some money went to them, food for event, and money was spent on some of the projects that came out of the visioning. The Welcome Booklet is one result from the visioning.



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OPTIONS

- New updated community visioning
- Open Space projects
- Community Solar project, maybe grant money could be used for the planning process, lease flat roofs or parking lots, way to get apartment dwellers using solar. We will be having a lot more apartment dwellers in town with new GM site, and it would be nice to find a way to offer them a way to do solar. John Hoegl will speak with Mike Winka to help get ideas of what others have successfully done.
- Electric Vehicles encouraged with more charging stations
- Find way to tie in General Motors with Historic Preservation. Heidi is member see if she has any ideas.
- Set up bike 'repair' stations at various locations on bike trails that are built as a result of the Open Space Plan. Adding more bike parking racks. Also new Trail development.
- Recycling – pizza box stickers to indicate that they are NOT recyclable. We could pick a day that a lot of people order pizza, i.e. Super Bowl Sunday, and we could do a special education program with members of the EGT going out to the various pizza places and offering to put stickers on their boxes along with educational flyer. Another area that needs to be better educated about recycling is Apartment Complexes/dwellers. We could do a special educational campaign just to reach out to this special population. What about a video following a piece of recycling as it goes through the system? Maybe something like this has already been done?

COMMITTEES

GREEN FEST

Annual MC Sustainable Coalition Green Fest will be March 14th. John Hoegl has volunteered to be Ewing's representative for this project. This year's theme may be water and water quality. The first meeting is Monday, January 6th at Terhune Orchards. Pam Mount hosts and offers chili and soup to encourage people to participate. The meetings are from 7-9:00.

WATER COMMITTEE (NEW)

This is an area of interest to new member Donna Morgan who volunteered to head up a possible stream clean up again with the Watershed Institute.

- Trenton Water Works has offered tours of their Route 29 water facilities to interested members of the public. Pete Boughton will follow up to get further details.
- There is discussion about the state of New York diverting water from the Lehigh River which will affect New Jersey's recreation, salinity, and water quality. Donna Morgan is attending the next meeting and will bring back information to our next meeting. There are lots of concerns since NY state does not have a good record in this area.
- We would like to do a Rain barrel program in Spring in the AmeriCorps Ambassador.



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- Water is a big issue affecting all areas. One example of how it affects recycling: what if we could set up water tanks for events where people could fill up their own personal water container rather than the Township offering bottled water? This would save hundreds of plastic water bottles from the landfill / recycling. What if we got a company to sponsor subsidizing filters on home taps, again huge savings on plastic water bottles?
- Another water issue – storm drains and getting clogged with piles of leaves; it's also a safety hazard.

BIKE RIDE

- We should investigate finding ways to expand the event, give it a bigger profile i.e. allowing kids to participate, maybe offering a Safety Town in conjunction with the Ride. What about a video to promote it? Best part of this year's was the people were meeting each other and interacting.

PUBLICITY

- Bill Sanservino at the Ewing Observer has been approached about the possibility of having a monthly column where we could discuss various issues and projects that we are working on; this may be a way to get more people interested in joining our efforts.

TREES

- An Arbor Day Celebration is one of the requirements to become a Tree City USA. We agreed upon Saturday, April 25th. FYI, trees are being planted around the Township from the No Net Loss tree replacement fund from the net loss of the building of the new Scudders Fall Bridge. Our tree planting needs to be at a location other than the Benjamin Temple House; Township already completed the allée with new plantings. Maybe we could plant at the ESCC?
- Tree ordinance - Dan Burke of the Environmental Commission is researching how to value trees for the ordinance.
- Tree seedling giveaways for Arbor Day. The NJ DEP offers bare root trees, different species as low as 80¢ each for 100 trees.
- For a Tree City, you need to have 4 criteria: A Tree Ordinance, celebrate Arbor Day, a Tree Board or Department responsible for care of trees, approved CFMP.

LITTER

- It would be great if we could run a community – wide clean-up this spring. Would the Mayor to sponsor this effort? We could get various clubs like the Democratic Club, different neighborhood associations to help get the word out. The helpful 'Next Door App' may be useful. We could try to include the various parks, maybe we could set up 'Friends of Ewing Parks' to organize volunteers to help keep our parks in good shape.
- We could discuss problems with Solterra collectors leaving litter all around after collection day. Maybe we could have an educational campaign to bring this to Solterra's attention, and to residents for their help in picking up. Perhaps the DEP has resources that could help.



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ANIMALS IN THE COMMUNITY

Joanne will continue to head the following efforts: Gardening for wildlife, Pollinator gardens, Meadow project. Joe and John will head up Deer control.

ARTS AND CREATIVE CULTURE

Lisa reported on the following:

- Scarecrow events – Scavenger Hunt was very well received. We will expand that and discontinue the Scarecrow contest that was held at the Community Center. Only had 10-11 entries this last year which shows a lot less community interest (3 were from the same person). Want to expand with businesses, hope for more community help; we did not have a lot of help.
- Lisa will give TCNJ Community Fest another try since there is a new organizer. However, this last year was definitely disappointing, nothing new, not a lot of art, no interest in introducing any new elements, no recycling at all; so felt we had absolutely no impact in being on the committee.
- Contest decorating rain barrels?
- Art in Pollinator Garden- We want this to be a collaborative effort between groups, not just one of 2 people doing everything. Should be the Arts Commission, Environmental Commission, Art Has No Boundaries, Patriotic Committee, Green Team and Recreation Department.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION AND OUTREACH FOR 2020

- Joe? - The End of Nature?
- Who can help to get speakers?
 - The Watershed Institute?
 - Sea Change – climate change...
 - Trees – Bill Brash? New garden planning with trees, selection/maintenance, gardening for wildlife
 - Bees – Jeff Burd
 - Vegetable Gardening – Isles -Michael Nordquist
 - Mercer County Horticulturalist? Rutgers Ext. Service on Parkside
 - Recycling – Steve Rinaldi?
 - Deer Management talk –Joe, will Buffalo Company from Princeton come out to do a presentation, can you see?
- Scheduled so far:
 - Mary Anne Borge – March 23rd Gardening is for the Birds
 - AmeriCorps Ambassador – Rain Barrel workshop this spring....

ENERGY COMMITTEE

- John and the members of the committee will oversee the creation of the Direct Install film being created with the MCSC grant funds. He would like to investigate and promote Community Solar.



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HEALTH AND WELLNESS

- Monthly/bimonthly walk – Donna could organize since she 12+ years experience organizing and leading walks, hikes, backpacks, kayaking, snowshoeing, and bike rides, currently several members of GT meet on Sunday mornings around 9:30-10 at various locations and walk several miles. Perhaps the County naturalist could join walks to add interest.
- Nice to add healthy to bike ride and add 5K to the day's events.

GREEN BUSINESS AND LOCAL ECONOMIES

- Evan will check out the new airport hangar for Bristol Meyers Squibb, maybe a good candidate.
- We still offer incentives for facade upgrades for Olden Avenue businesses which could certainly benefit.

NEIGHBORHOODS

- May be a good time for Caroline to reconvene group to see if it needs to be updated.

SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE PLANNING

- New visioning in 2020?

CLOSING

The meeting adjourned at 11:55.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Feldman

Secretary