



EWING GREEN TEAM

Promoting People, the Planet, and Prosperity in Ewing



January 22, 2020 Minutes

Location: Ewing Senior and Community Center

Present

Evan Crumiller
Lisa Feldman
John Hoegl
Kylie King
Joe Mirabella
Donna Morgan
Joanne Mullowney
Caroline Steward
Mark Wetherbee

Absent

Malissa Arnold
Heidi Furman (excused)
Garry Keel
Sarah Steward

Guests

John Balletto (Hamilton EC)
Pete Boughton (Planning Board)
Judy Boughton
Clint Griggs (Hamilton EC)
Jennifer Helmski (The Watershed Institute)
Linda Turner Rostron
Anjali Thakker (Americorps Ambassador)
Pria Vimalassery

Introduction

- Call to order, meeting began at 7:05 pm.
- New member Donna Morgan and re-upped EGT members- Joanne Mullowney, Caroline Steward, Lisa Feldman, and Kylie King were sworn in by Township Clerk Kim Macellaro. (Group photo taken by Mark Wetherbee.) We still have two vacancies on our board. Members were asked to be on the lookout for potential appointees to submit to administration.
- Approved October monthly meeting and January Retreat minutes
- Election of 2020 Officers – Joanne Mullowney – Chair, Evan Crumiller- Vice Chair, Lisa Feldman – Secretary, and Caroline Steward - Membership Officer/Hospitality Coordinator for welcoming guests and potential new members.

Guests

- Two (2) guests from Hamilton Township's Environmental Commission, Green Team, and Shade Tree Commission, Clint Griggs and John Balletto visited to learn about some of the things that we do and get some ideas to take back to their teams
- Linda Turner Rostron has been a participant in our annual Garden Tour for a couple of years and is interested to learn more about what we do. She is discouraged with how poorly Ewing handles litter and trash in public areas; she also thinks street signs are in bad condition. She is interested in trash and recycling and would like to get more involved in helping Ewing do a better job. She may be interested in becoming a member.
- Pria Vimalassery is a newer Ewing resident, a lawyer, and interested in recycling.
- Jennifer Helmski is a representative of The Watershed Institute who offered her organization's assistance with a plastic bag ordinance.
- Anjali Thakker is the 2019/20 Americorps Ambassador who has offered to run a rain barrel workshop for us this spring.

Updates

Trees

Arbor Day

- The Arbor Day celebration will be Saturday, April 25th. In conjunction with the Environmental Commission we will again donate a tree, to be matched by the Township and the Mullowneys at the ESCC. Evan announced

Ewinggreenteam.org

Contact us: ewinggreenteam@gmail.com

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



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that the cost should run to a \$20 donation per member. Dan Burke, landscape architect and member of the Environmental Commission, will again donate his company's labor for the tree planting.

- The Township also authorized an expense of \$100 to purchase starter trees for giveaways for the event. The NJDEP, Division of Forestry offers a small list of trees beginning at approximately 76¢ each. It was suggested that we also provide instructions for care information to give with each tree to ensure the best care possible.
- Joanne also hopes to offer a program on Trees this year – care, selection, wildlife value, landscape value, and perhaps dealing with special issues. She will check with Brill Brash to see if he would do a presentation.

Tree Ordinance

- We continue to work in support of a tree ordinance for Ewing Township. We need more educational programs to explain how necessary trees are - how vital they are for a community's overall environmental health. Members of the Environmental Commission and Green Team continue to attend Council Meetings and Planning Board meetings in order to speak up to promote the importance of getting a Tree Ordinance passed.

Committee Reports

Animals/Gardening for Wildlife – Natural Resources

- The Pollinator Garden planted last spring in front of Ewing Senior and Community Center between the two front entry doors seems to be doing well. There is still one section to be planted this spring to complete the project and the grant.
- Gardening for Wildlife (National Wildlife Foundation) Project is continuing and Ewing currently has 81 points; we need to have 250 points to be certified.
- There will be a presentation on March 23rd – 'Gardening is for the Birds' – given by Mary Anne Borge, the naturalist from Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve. It will be at the Library at 7 pm.

The Arts

- Lisa continues as member of Ewing Arts Commission. Sunday, January 26th is the winter annual Student Art Show and is again being held at Elks Lodge. They no longer have grant funds, so members of the Commission have been soliciting local businesses for donations of food and beverages.
- The 'Featured Artists' program at the Municipal Building will feature the work of the current artist, Robin Keyes, photographer.

Beautify Ewing

- The 2020 Garden Tour is being held on 3 different Saturdays to showcase the various gardens throughout the seasons - June 6th, July 25th, and October 3rd. Last year's garden tour was very successful, the biggest attendance yet. Last year we also had artists in various gardens and were very well received. We will reach out to the Arts Commission for their help in contacting artists for this year's events. We can also use our Directory of Ewing artists to contact people who might be interested in doing this. Lisa will touch base with Art Commission members via email as well as discuss at their next meeting.

Bike Ride

- Last year was the bike tour's fifth anniversary. It was initiated by Pete Boughton; now Gary Keel oversees this project. The largest number of participants was about 50. Due to insurance issues children are not allowed to participate. We need to find out what other towns do that allows kids. It was started as promoting healthy living and encouraging better bike accessibility and planning. More roads in Ewing now have bike lanes. Our goal is to see parks in Ewing connected for better biking throughout Township. Pete would like to advocate for Township budgeting for better park maintenance and adding monies for expansion.



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Cleanups 2020

Community-wide Cleanup

- We wonder about the possibility of running a community-wide clean-up and will ask the Mayor to get behind this. Could we bill this as a 'Mayor's' Cleanup/Spring Cleaning? We would need to ask the Twp. to put the resources needed to do this. Donna has experience organizing events like this. She would be able to help do this for some time in the fall. We would need 'champions' for each neighborhood to help coordinate all the efforts. This would be a great opportunity to hook-up with various neighborhood associations. Caroline may be able to help with contacts. Donna will work on this and send Joanne a tentative plan of action.

Stream Cleanup

- Donna has contacted The Watershed and they are willing to work with us again. The date is April 18th. Location TDB. Donna would like to see us work on the river front parking area where there are river rapids near the Scudders Fall Bridge. There is a lot of work to be done and we would get immediate results in cleaning this area. A lot of people who enjoy the river would appreciate the clean-up.

Water Issues

- Jennifer from the Watershed explained that they are expanding their range of service into the Delaware River Watershed. This will offer new partnership opportunities, new ordinances; they will support communities in whatever way they can.
- The Americorps Ambassador, Anjali Thakker, will help run a rain barrel workshop for us this spring. We will attempt to schedule the Community Room for a Saturday morning in May. She will supply the rain barrels. The participants would pay \$20 each to cover the cost of the hardware. She will predrill the necessary holes. She will also run a brief presentation explaining the importance of the rain barrels, how to maintain them, including general information about water conservation. It would be great to tie in the Arts and add a segment on painting and decorating rain barrels. This would be a great collaboration with Art Has No Boundaries who is always looking for new crafts and the Arts Commission. Lisa will discuss the idea with the other groups.
- Following up the public meeting held here at the Ewing Senior and Community Center; representatives of Trenton Water Works offered tours of their water treatment facility on Route 29. Pete has followed-up and is trying to get some possible dates for anyone interested to go for the tour. He will see if they could offer a Saturday for the people who work.

Kylie King – Student Ambassador

- Kylie is now the President of the Ewing High Environmental Club. They raised \$300 for Australian wildfire relief. She will see if they will attend the Green Fest and possibly complete their courtyard garden to participate in the Garden Tour. Kylie will contact Student Arts Club to see if they might help with the art installation for the Pollinator Garden. They are also collaborating on projects with Trenton High School.

Energy

- John works with Mark, Pete, and Evan on this committee. Direct Install outreach has not been very successful and business owners are not signing up for this incredible offer. Not sure where the problem is since they can save up to 70% on energy upgrades. One reason may be that a lot of businesses don't own the buildings they are in; they only pay rent. The landlords are not local.
- Members of The Mercer County Sustainable Coalition have the same problem. The Coalition is finishing up a \$10K Sustainable Jersey grant to promote the program. They are jointly creating videos that include businesses in Mercer County which have successfully completed this program. Gary Keel is one of Ewing's



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participating businesses and the other is Michael from Surface Technologies, Inc., the company that was recognized as a Green Business last year. The hope is that this video from the perspective of the business participant will answer many questions and encourage more participation. Will get status on film at next Coalition Meeting on Jan 31st.

Green Fest

- The 2020 Green Fest is scheduled for Saturday, March 14th, from 11-4 at Rider University. The theme this year is water and water quality. The Watershed is a big participant. Also, electric cars are usually well displayed for people to check out. John represents us at the planning sessions at Terhune Orchards. Joanne is tending the MCSC website. Need someone to volunteer to oversee our Green Team's table for that day. Donna and Mark said they should be able to be there for the day.

Green Business Recognition

- Evan runs this program and he is currently working on a 3rd round of honorees - there are about 15 businesses tentatively interested.

Recycling

- The Recycling Committee has not met recently, and we need to determine where are we heading with this. Heidi has done an amazing job as 'queen' of recycling, especially at events running the 'Trash Talk' and getting people in the conversation and was nominated as Group Chair. Pete has also offered to help with this.

Welcome Committee

- Caroline is in charge of this committee. It is time to review and update the information in the booklet.

Conclusion

Our February meeting will concentrate on building out our recycling effort for the coming year. The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Feldman

Secretary