



# EWING GREEN TEAM

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



## *Ewing Green Team Meeting Minutes*

June 23, 2021

### In Attendance

Joanne Mullowney	Mark Wetherbee
Jennifer Keyes-Maloney	Pete Boughton
Donna Morgan	Lisa Feldman
Heidi Furman	Jonathan Lloyd

Caroline Steward
Lynn Robbins
Evan Crumiller

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm. No minutes were reviewed as approval of the May minutes will be held until the July meeting.

### Guests

We welcomed guest Jonathan Lloyd to our meeting. His interests are reducing carbon footprint of Ewing. Finding out what the water and air quality of Mercer County are and finding ways to make our lives more sustainable now and for our children.

### Committee Reports

#### Bike Ride

The Township has approved holding our bike ride this year and will support the event financially with \$1500. The route will probably be close to the one used the first time we held this event. It will be held on October 2<sup>nd</sup>. Anyone interested in helping with this event the first meeting will be held the week of July 10<sup>th</sup>. Please get in touch with Gary Keel who is organizing this.

#### Arts/Scarecrow Event

Lisa reported that we held our first meeting to get the planning started. It will probably be a combination scavenger hunt clues and riddles to find this year's scarecrows. It's very difficult to write the scavenger rhyming clues for repeat scarecrow locations so we think the combination of riddles will be a bit easier. We'll try and mix it up since we know how much people love answering the clues.

The Township is having the Trunk-or-Treat this year so we might be coordinating our event with that event. Joanne and Lisa will be meeting with Ted Forst to get a better idea of what he has in mind and what type of financial support they will offer. Jennifer Keyes-Maloney has told us that she does know that the Township will be paying for one ad in the Observer for August. We ask for 3 months of ads in the Observer, so we need to find out what about the other months.

We have already reached out to last years' generous donors asking if they will be able to help us again this year. We know we will need additional support.

#### Green Amendment

A couple of letters have gone to Council members in support of a Ewing Township resolution supporting the Green Amendment. Priya has helped to answer Council Members questions regarding the Amendment. Joanne will put a request for letters on our Face Book page. Members should ask their friends to please send letters of support to the Council Members; it helps show that residents are interested and want this supported.



# EWING GREEN TEAM

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



The Resolution is ready to go in the Township; it just needs a strong showing of support from residents for the Council members to understand that people want this officially supported. If residents show strong support, the message will come through to Council that this needs to be passed.

## Clean-ups

Glendale Civic Association will be adopting the Shabakunk Creek Park. The effort is being led by Karen Sayre. They will bring some plants and at 10:00 on Saturday volunteers will help to do plantings and fix-up the park. If interested, bring gloves and your gardening tools, all welcome.

Hillsborough's Green Team has great ideas on their website on community clean-ups. We should take some of their ideas and adapt for Ewing. Go to Ewing website, under Public Works you will see a list of this year's clean-ups.

When should we take on another community clean-up? Maybe the Environmental Commission would like to take on a park clean-up? For virtual clean-ups report to Watershed.

## Adopt a Storm Drain

Idea to adopt a storm drain. University of Wisconsin has a program where you can upload the locations of all storm drains?? Weigh what you collect and enter the data on the website.

What about social media? Website article clean-ups and adopt a storm drain, plogging (out walking and pick up litter at same time)

Other clean-ups, maybe wait for Fall. Suggest Green Lane always needs litter pick-up. Donna did a clean-up at Scudders Bridge; neighbors had also done a clean-up. It's in good shape. It helps that they keep it closed on the weekends. DPW is supposed to pick up bags on streets with yard debris the day following your garbage pick-up.

## Bag Up NJ Effort

Plastic bag/straws ban will be effective May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Plastic bag education and outreach committee will meet outside of the monthly meeting. We can use Bag Up NJ logo. People who offered to help include Joanne, Jennifer KM, Donna, Lisa, Jonathan, Evan, Mark, and Caroline. These members will meet separately at the pavilion behind the Municipal Building, Thursday, July 1st at 6:00. Jennifer Keyes-Maloney will send a list of resources. They will discuss what type of outreach; what we need to send out and to whom.

## Sustainable landscaping outreach

Joanne will create webpages in support of a Healthy Yards campaign.

## Love'em and Leave'em Leaf campaign

Joanne and Evan will work on this. We need to start early to help educate residents on new yard debris rules since the Township will no longer collect loose leaves or grass. Everything must be bagged in paper yard bags. Township will still collect branches no longer than 4'. Evan can work on outreach and come up with what would work for Ewing. If anyone else wants to work on this let Joanne know.

## Trees

Mercer County had said they would supply trees for giveaway to help with Ewing's tree loss. These would all be natives. Jennifer KM will check with County. It would be an ideal giveaway as a part of an Arbor Day celebration in Spring, along with an educational component.



# EWING GREEN TEAM

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



## Sustainable Jersey Recertification

Donna will be organizing this effort. Outside committee will meet at Donna's home on July 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:00. Donna will send details to committee members.

## Education and Outreach

### Gardening for Wildlife Education

Maryanne Borge had previously given a very well attended gardening presentation at the Ewing Library. We had her scheduled for presentation last year, but it had to be canceled due to the pandemic's lockdown. Once the Senior and Community Center is open full-time, we can reschedule. Maryanne had sent a list of all her topics for everyone to review and make suggestions. They were all very interesting. Heidi chose her top 3: Native plants, birds in the Natural world and Insects in your garden.

Insects have been dying off in great numbers which is extremely alarming. While many people don't appreciate insects, environmentally we recognize their important role and need to understand how we can help.

### National Night Out

will be held this year and it will be Tuesday, August 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:00. We should discuss what we want to highlight at the event – Scarecrow Scavenger Hunt, Bike Ride, Wildlife Gardening, Recycling and Trash Toss. We can finalize plans at July's meeting.

### DEP Speaker Program

We might be interested in the speaker program through the NJ DEP link – one topic of interest – Climate Change and how will it affect New Jersey?

### Trails

Lynn did some weed-whacking on the Scouts Trail. She is trying to maintain the trail. Lynn is interested in learning more about the trails behind the Benjamin Temple House. That property is believed to be owned by TCNJ. Nothing new to report regarding Patriotic Trail behind the Municipal Building at the Veterans Park to be dedicated to Veterans .

Jennifer KM took pictures of the walking bridge on the Scouts Trail and will give to Township to show the work that still needs to be done on the bridge.

Has there been any follow-up from 2019 public presentations By Chuck Latini on the parks?

A Mercer Bike and Pedestrian meeting was attended by Pete Boughton. They are still working on Hopewell-Lawrence Trail. Eventually it will connect to Ewing's portion of the trail.

## Outside Committee Reports

### Town Council

Jennifer Keyes-Maloney did alert Town Council members that the Green Team is working on recertification this year and may need their help in proving how the Township supports our green sustainable efforts. One example is the solar ordinance. We may need changes in how the ordinance reads in response to what SJ is requiring.



# EWING GREEN TEAM

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

Jennifer is looking into the green practices of the Township, i.e., green cleaning, green purchasing. She will give us update on her findings at next meeting.



The conversation into cannabis rules and regulations for growing as well as sales continues on-going discussions. What if Township decides not to sell other than medicinal reasons and other towns sell; how will this effect Ewing?

## Condemnation Board

Evan reported that the good news is that a few places have been removed from the list. The process is that someone in the Township complains about a property that is vacant and appears abandoned; grass is overgrown, etc. They research to try to find the person who is responsible for property. Try to foreclose, ultimately might need to get building demolished. It's a long process.

Another piece of good news is that the number of vacant houses in the Township has decreased. It depends on condition of property. The Pandemic has encouraged more sales.

## Environmental Commission

Nothing to report.

## Closing

The Meeting adjourned at 8:29 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Lisa Feldman*

Secretary