



# EWING GREEN TEAM

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



## MEETING MINUTES

JULY 28, 2021

### IN ATTENDANCE:

Joanne Mullowney

Evan Crumiller

Priya

Mark Wetherbee

Heidi Furman

Jonathan Cloyd

Jennifer Keyes-Malone

Lisa Feldman

Sonya Travis

Donna Morgan

Caroline Steward

Lynn Robbins

Garry Keel

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 pm. The membership voted to approve the May and June minutes, except for the correction of the spelling of Jonathan Cloyd

### GUESTS

Welcome Sonya Travis. Her environmental concerns are the spotted lantern flies and how to kill them and recycling.

### DISCUSSION

Discussion was held on the new leaf ordinance: [319: Leaves, Brush, and Yard Waste](#). This mandates changes to how residents will handle their yard waste, especially leaf disposal. People will no longer be allowed to just pile their loose leaves to the street for pick-up. Leaves must either be bagged in the compostable brown paper bags or better yet, leaves can be left in yard and cut-up by mower and spread as mulch on residents' properties. That is the best environmental solution. Leaves make great mulch. Branches can still be put curbside. However, they can be no longer than 4' long. They can be in bundles or put in the yard bags.

The Township had Joanne create an ad giving all the details to prepare residents for the upcoming requirements. It has been and will be in the Observer through the end of leaf season. We anticipate unhappy residents who will see this as more work for them. But if we educate as to why these changes are happening and give clear answers to any possible questions or complaints; the new changes will be better handled.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

#### THE ARTS

Lisa reported that planning is moving along for our scarecrow scavenger hunt. We've already sent emails out to all last year's participants. We've heard back from 14 saying that 'yes' they plan on hosting again this year. However, it's not official until we receive their registration forms. And to make sure each scarecrow is definitely registered; once we receive the registration form, we send a confirmation to the host. Last year we had a couple of problems where people had thought they were registered but we never received their registrations and when they finally contacted us it was too late ballots were already printed. Hopefully this new confirmation process will ensure this doesn't happen again.

Our first ad will be in the August edition of the Ewing Observer. We're grateful to the Township for paying for this. We traditionally place ads in August, September, and October editions of the Observer. We're waiting to hear if they



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will help pay for the next 2 ads. Other than promoting the event at National Night Out and social media; the Observer is our best promotional tool.

## NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

National Night Out is back this year and will be next Tuesday, August 3rd, from 6:00-8:00 pm at the Senior and Community Center. Who will be able to help that night? Lisa, Joanne, Heidi, Evan will also volunteer but will probably be late because of work.

Garry is going to have a separate table for the bike ride and has 3 volunteers to help him. This will be the 6th Annual Bike Ride. All monies raised will go to Anchor House in Trenton. The cost to participate is \$20 before September 25th and \$25 after the 25th. Kim McNair from Anchor House has kindly offered volunteers to help with our event.

The bike ride will be Saturday, October 2nd; will leave from the ESCC. It will be 10.8 miles, a nice leisurely route. Will include one hill – up Wilburtha Road and hopefully arrangements are being made for a good stopping point at the Our Lady of Good Counsel Church where Wilburtha ends at Upper Ferry Road. There will be 2 stops total about 3 miles apart. The ride is for adults 18 and above. Part of the itinerary is the new fully opened Silvia Street. There will be a police escort as before. Ted Forst will get Garry copies with start and stop information. The next meeting of the bike committee will be August 16th. If you are interested in helping and joining the bike committee, please contact Garry.

The Green Team Table at National Night Out will advertise the Scarecrow Scavenger Hunt. Lisa will bring one of her scarecrows to help promote the event. We will have the registration forms and copy of the ad with details about hosting as well as 'hunting' the scarecrows this October. The other topic to share will be the new Leaf and yard waste ordinance. Need to get the word out to as many residents as possible to prevent problems with people still raking their loose leaves to the curb. Not sure what type of enforcement will be in place, but the best plan is for as much educational outreach as possible.

## TRAILS

Lynn reports that we need help dealing with lantern flies. Lynn has been speaking with TCNJ's Maritza McGraw, Senior Director of Facilities, about possible trails behind the Benjamin Temple House. TCNJ owns that property so we would need their participation. Ms. McGraw was very interested. She is in the process of hiring a new person which would be helpful moving this forward. Might also be able to get a student to help as part of their coursework. Important question to include in planning = how will the trail be maintained? Will TCNJ take responsibility to maintain the trail? Good follow-up contact would be the 'Town & Gown' committee; they might be a good group to get volunteers for this trail.

Lynn has been doing maintenance on the Eagle Scouts Trail behind Municipal Building. She has been using her own weed-whacker to help maintain the trail. Jennifer Keyes-Maloney has discussed the bridge repair work with the Township. They have agreed to take care of it. She will follow-up. The fence also needs work but may be more difficult so not sure where the Township stands on that issue.

Bike riders have created some trails for themselves behind the Benjamin Temple House. Pete was in touch with Bob Kirby, no safe way for bikers to travel from his development in the Shabakunk Creek Hills.

## PLASTIC EDUCATION

**Ewinggreenteam.org**

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

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



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Ban on single use Plastic bag Committee will be meeting separately. They had a meeting scheduled but due to storms it had to be canceled. Committee members – Evan, Jennifer KM, Lisa, Jonathan, Heidi, Donna, Sonya, Mark, and Joanne. Next meeting is August 5th at 6:00 at Ewing Pavilion behind Municipal Building. Rain date will be August 12th. Garry was kind enough to offer his office conference room (located on Parkway Ave) for any committee meeting. With current Delta variant of Covid spreading aggressive new virus growth; we're not sure about in-person meetings.

## SUSTAINABLE JERSEY RECERTIFICATION

This committee held a first meeting at Donna's home. They went through the actions list and reviewed what we had done in the past, the status of items, and what is realistic for us to include in our plans. Donna will update action descriptions and send out the list of actions and what was thought to be possible for us to achieve. Silver Certification requires 350 points with 3 priority actions. The tentative review gave us about 495 points. So, Silver might be possible again. However, it was agreed that many of the actions require Township participation and employees to help with required documentation. And last certification was difficult. We did not get points for actions that we should have gotten but without the required documentation we could not meet what SJ required.

Jennifer is going to advise Town Council that we're working on re-certification. This will help prepare people that we will be asking for assistance from various people to help meet the SJ back-up documentation requirements. We will also need cooperation from the different department heads who are needed for documentation write-ups for various actions. Next re-certification committee meeting will be Wednesday, August 18th at 6:00 pm at Donna's home.

## SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPING AND OUTREACH

Upcoming outreach will include the 'love'em and leave-em' campaign. Evan has done lots of mailers so he will be able to create flyers for our different landscaping programs (residential/commercial). One idea is to offer training classes for landscapers so that residents as well as local professionals are all aware of current rules, I.E., new landscape ordinance on yard waste. We need current list of landscapers.

We need to educate as many people as possible to prevent lots of misinformation and resulting angry residents. For example, teaching people benefits of mulching leaves in place vs. the old way of just putting all loose leaves in street for pick-up.

The 'love'em and leaf'em' mailer is a part of our [Healthy Yards](#) campaign. This page on our website covers all the things you can do to maintain sustainability on your property, such as grass cycling and tree planting. GT members should familiarize themselves with these.

Shabakunk Creek Park on Olden Avenue – update from Heidi. The Glendale Civic Association with Karen Sayre took the lead in planting native plants. We will find out if we will be able to certify this park to get points for our 'Wildlife for Gardening' campaign. It costs \$20 to certify. We can confirm the water supply is from the creek; the seeds planted qualify. Members from the Civic Association are responsible for watering and have set up a watering schedule, so far it has been working well.

A resident shared their appreciation for the wildflower meadows. We will reach out to this person to see if we can share their feelings as a testimonial for the website.



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## SPEAKERS

Maryann Borge had been scheduled to speak before the pandemic hit. With the increase in the numbers in NJ re: the Pandemic, we have decided to reschedule in the winter.

## NEIGHBORHOODS

This is a good way to reach neighbors. We need to get contacts for various neighborhood groups. The 'Welcome Book' needs to be updated.

## GREEN AMENDMENT

Good effort on getting letters sent to various Town Council members in support of Green Amendment. However, it's too late to get this on the November ballot.

## OUTSIDE COMMITTEE REPORTS

### TOWNSHIP COUNCIL

They are looking at moving a football field to one of the soccer fields. Discussions about cannabis growth and sales continue.

## CONCLUSION

It was agreed that we won't hold an August Green Team meeting; for this month we will only hold the sub-committee meetings. We're hoping that we can start to have more in-person meetings. We will hopefully start our monthly meetings in-person once the Community and Senior Center expands their hours to include evenings. However, the current situation with the increasing Covid numbers due to the Delta variant might affect the decisions on relaxing restrictions. The meeting adjourned at 8:49 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

*Lisa Feldman*