



# EWING GREEN TEAM

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



## MEETING MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 22, 2021

### IN ATTENDANCE:

Joanne Mullowney

Donna Morgan

Evan Crumiller

Lisa Feldman

Sonya Travis

Priya Vimalassery

Mark Wetherbee

Caroline Steward

Lynn Robbins

Joe Mirabella

Heidi Furman

Garry Keel

Jennifer Keyes-Maloney

Jack Wolfarth

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm. The membership voted to approve the May and June minutes. Both sets passed with no changes.

Ted Forst announced that the Ewing Senior and Community Center will be extending their hours as of October 3<sup>rd</sup>. They will start evening hours and weekends. This may be a good time to decide if we will restart our meetings in-person. We could start with our October meeting (the 27<sup>th</sup>). Joanne has tentatively reserved the large Community Room where we could meet safely by spreading out. She will send an email asking people to vote their preference for the next meeting. The idea of hybrid – in-person with the meeting also on zoom might not work with the quality of wi-fi in the building not being the best to support this.

### NOTICES

Tomorrow night is the meeting of the Plastic Bag Ban Committee at 6:00 at the Pavilion behind the Municipal Building.

### GUESTS

Welcome Sonya Travis. Her sustainable areas of interest are the ban on single use plastic bag. She would be interested in joining committee working outreach about this. Sonya is also interested in dealing with the spotted lantern fly. She has been learning how to build traps. DEP working on solutions to deal with this.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

#### STUDENT AMBASSADOR – EWING SCHOOLS

Jack, our student ambassador from Ewing High School Environmental club explained that the club got a late start this year. They did not have a chance to discuss participating in the Scarecrow Scavenger Hunt. The deadline for participating was September 11<sup>th</sup>.

### TRAILS

Lynn said the Scout's trail appeared to have had maintenance work done. Areas were cleared and someone had done some trailblazing noted with red, yellow, and green stripes. A large tree fell on the trail and Lynn has asked the Township if they could cut some it to help better use the trail.

Pete Boughton had proposed a trail to be done behind the Benjamin Temple House. That property is owned by TCNJ. Lynn has spoken with Maritza McGraw, TCNJ Operations Manager who seems open to the trail idea. Maybe TCNJ can get student volunteers to help create the new trail.



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## THE ARTS

Lisa reported that we have a total of 41 Scarecrows for this year's hunt. The committee has been meeting often to work on the clues and it is very challenging. We welcome anyone who would like to help. Caroline has said she would like to participate.

## ANNUAL BIKE RIDE

Garry Keel reported that the ride is 2 weeks away. We're in good shape with the last group meeting. So far there are 25 riders signed up. We look for 50 riders. They all have to be at least 18. It's 11 miles with only 1 challenging hill – Wilburtha Road. It will be rain or shine. This is also advertised on Facebook, signs around town. People often wait until last minute to see what the weather will be. Each rider gets a nice t-shirt.

This year Anchor House is the non-profit selected to receive money from ride. Anchor House has lots of volunteers helping. They will report to Ted Forst. All are welcome to come cheer on the riders. The ride starts at 8:15. Joe will be riding and stay in the middle of the riders if help is needed.

## PLASTIC EDUCATION

The committee is working on several documents, one about straws and another focusing on single plastic bag. These will be images for social media. The straw ban is a different process than the single plastic bag ban. They are not totally banning straws; people who need a straw may ask for one. They will no longer just be put out, only upon special request. There are people with disabilities who rely on straws. The change will go into effect in November. Are we providing anything to restaurants to help them, i.e., cardboard display that explains new rules?

Our job is to help educate the public on the new rules and explain the background to eliminate any confusion and doubt about the changes. Maybe we should notify the (Mid-Jersey Chamber of Commerce.

We're holding an 'upcycling' event at the library October 2, at 2:30. Heidi will be teaching how to make a reusable bag from a t-shirt. We can do this more than once. We need educational materials by October 2<sup>nd</sup>. NJ Clean Communities has a lot of information on the single bag ban that we can use and just adapt to Ewing Green Team's purposes. Jennifer offered to do a flyer; she admits to not being very creative when it comes to design.

## SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPING AND OUTREACH

Jennifer and Joanne met with Jim McManimon and agreed that we would do an educational leaf campaign. It can be on the Township website. We could hold outdoor programs demonstrating how to cut up leaves on your property to make mulch.

We will ask if Dan Burke, landscaper, on the Environmental Commission, would be willing to help us do a presentation to landscapers. They would probably be more receptive to a fellow professional rather than just a Green Team member. If Dan's schedule is difficult, perhaps he could do a video that we could share. We could show this in the large Community Room at the Community and Senior Center.

TCNJ has a pollinator garden behind Campus Town. Joanne has contacted them to see if they will certify it with the National Wildlife Federation for 5 more Ewing points. We will also apply for certification of the new Glendale managed habitat at the Shabakunk Creek Park and see if the Township will pay the fee of \$20.

## STORMWATER ISSUES

[Ewinggreenteam.org](http://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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Adopt-a-drain Program – Joanne got a copy of a scanned list of all the storm drains in Ewing. She will enter this into an Excel spreadsheet with the goal of adding the GPS coordinates (longitude and latitude) for each drain. Once we this is complete, we can upload our drains to the Hamline University (Minnesota) online Adopt a Storm Drain program which allows individuals to sign up to be responsible for a particular drain and track their impact. They would make sure these are cleaned of leaves and debris so that stormwater runoff is not blocked. This is a new website and there are only a few states participating in it to date. We should be able to get SJ credit for this. Caroline and Donna have offered to help with project. Lynn will adopt-a-drain on her street in Glendale. Sonya volunteered to do drains in Fleetwood neighborhood.

## SUSTAINABLE JERSEY RECERTIFICATION

We need another meeting to discuss recertification, maybe after Scarecrow is done. Thursday, October 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:00. We should start to meet more regularly maybe once a month as it gets closer to the deadline of when assignments are due. Jennifer will reach out to various Township departments to help clarify the importance of their participation. The point of many of the actions is to get local government committed to these efforts.

## DELAWARE RIVER CLEAN UP

October 16<sup>th</sup> is the rescheduled river clean-up date. Donna will coordinate tools and gloves. A sign-up 'genius' will be sent to Green Team members for people to volunteer different shifts.

## 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.

## GREEN AMENDMENT

This is on hold. Hope it will be on NJ 2022 Ballot for voters to decide.

## OUTSIDE COMMITTEE REPORTS

### ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Evan reported that the EEC discussed the importance of a Climate Action Plan. Two communities in Mercer County have done their own climate assessment, West Windsor, and Princeton. What kind of emergency plans does Ewing have? Maybe we could help support the Environmental Commission's programs? We would also like to schedule a speaker from the NJDEP to speak to us on the specifics of how climate change is/will impact us in New Jersey.

### CONDEMNATION BOARD

Evan, Joanne had suggested a property to this board, and it was purchased, and the new owner is the process of refurbishing it. 406 Ewingville Rd.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30.

Respectfully submitted,

*Lisa Feldman*