



# EWING GREEN TEAM

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



## EWING GREEN TEAM MINUTES

JANUARY 26, 2022

### OPENING

Meeting called to order via Zoom at 7 pm.

### IN ATTENDANCE:

Joanne Mullowney	Mark Wetherbee	Amanda Weigand – Americorps
Lynn Robbins	Lisa Feldman	Water Ambassador
Sara Hendrickson	Priya Vimalassery	Victoria Henderickson
Heidi Furman	Jonathan Cloyd	Lucylle R.S. Walter – Mercer
Caroline Steward	Evan Crumiller	County Commissioner
Donna Morgan	Daniel Angebranndt -School	Joe Mirabella
Jennifer Keyes-Maloney – Town	Board Member	
Council Liaison	Sonya Travis	

### GUEST VISITORS

1. Mercer County Commissioner Vice-President Lucylle R.S. Walter speaking to the group to update us on Trenton-Mercer airport changes and the effects on the environment. Specifically speaking about the 600 trees that will be taken down to meet FAA requirements. The trees affected according to the FAA are in the 'runway protection zone' and are considered safety hazards. Behind houses on Sunset. However, only the trees will be removed; the brush and low ground brush will remain.
  - a. Where trees will be planted to compensate for all the tree loss, they will replant in triple tree deep settings. Commissioner Walter has stated that the Mercer County Board of County Commissioners had previously and unanimously approved a resolution supporting a "No Net Tree Loss" policy in Mercer County.
  - b. Ewing Administration has said that there is no place to replant these large numbers of replacement trees in Ewing. This is concerning since we have such a poor percentage of tree canopy in Ewing Township.
    - a. Ideas to foster tree replacement
      - i. Evaluate inventive tree replacement program in Hamilton that allowed residents to take one of the trees to be planted.
      - ii. Jennifer Keyes-Maloney has had talks with Mercer County that they would be willing to donate trees free to residents. This would allow more trees being planted and minimize the need for the township to find home for these trees.
      - iii. We also need to emphasize the importance on the tree replacements to be native species.



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- c. Also, part of the discussion - the 'wetlands mitigation credits' that the work at the airport will be causing. – Commissioner Walter is working to make it a priority that the credits remain in Mercer County. However, NJDEP decides this. The consultants can ask but they do not have final say, DEP does.
- d. There are 'wetland credit banks' throughout New Jersey. Commissioner Walter spoke up at the Commissioner Meeting on Tuesday, January 25<sup>th</sup> during the discussion with the airport manager and the engineers and consultants involved in the airport construction. There are 2 of these 'mitigation credit banks' located in Mercer County – one is Hamilton-Robbinsville and the other is Lawrence-West Windsor-Princeton; Commissioner Walter made a point of emphasizing the importance of keeping the credits local, at least in Mercer County. The consultants agreed that they would make sure that the DEP is aware that it is preferred to remain in Mercer County.

2. Amanda Weigand from the Watershed discussed the "Health of the Streams Project."

- a. Project- Environmental Cleanup
- b. Suggestion to work with EHS students
- c. Possible locations to consider Watson Park
- d. Plan: Joanne to work with Amanda to bring this project to fruition

## MEETING AGENDA

- 3. Minutes – October meeting, December meeting and January annual retreat – all approved.
- 4. Officers for year of 2022
  - a. Secretary, Vice President and Chair. Caroline Steward has kindly volunteered to be Secretary
  - b. Evan has agreed to continue as VP
  - c. Joanne has agreed to continue as President, this will be her last year in this position
- 5. Swearing EGT of new/renewed members by Jennifer
  - a. New members include Donna Morgan, Priya Vimalassery, & Sonya Travis- Welcome
  - b. New student representative from Ewing High School- Daniel Angebrandt- Welcome

## ANNOUNCEMENTS/PROJECT UPDATES

- 6. At the request of the group from the last EGT meeting, Joanne signed us up to participate in The Watershed's "NJ Road Salt Impact Study".
  - a. Goal of Project: To find out if chloride levels spike after a road salting event, we need to collect data in both dry and wet weather. Take 3 measurements on a "wet" day, when rain, snow, or snowmelt may wash road salt into the water. Take 3 measurements on a "dry" day, when there hasn't been rain, snow, or snowmelt within 72 hours.
  - b. 2 stream locations were selected: Hollowbrook and the D&R Canal.
  - c. Volunteers for this project are Donna and Sonya backup volunteers include Caroline, Mark, and Evan
  - d. Test strips are backordered. Once available we need to visit each site 6 times before the end of March.



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- e. More information is available at <https://njwatershedwatch.org/road-salt/>
- 7. Proposed Spring events / current Projects
  - Program: Introduction to redoing your landscape with native plants – Speaker Nick D'Amato owner of Gino's Nursery. Joanne to schedule. Date TBD
  - Program: Creating a Rain Garden – The Watershed- Joanne to schedule. Date TBD
  - Program: on storm drains... The Watershed- Joanne to Schedule. Date TBD
  - Shred Day- not yet scheduled
  - Stream clean up – Tentative date 4/9/22 – location Hollowbrook
  - Community Clean Up – Tentative date 4/23/22- location TBD.
    - This is the same day as National Trail Day- Lynn to provide more information.
  - Tree planting- April 30,2022. This is Arbor Day
    - Tree to be planted again within township - ??Benjamin Temple??
      - All members have agreed to contribute \$20 for tree purchase
  - Storm Drain Project-
    - Still need GPS locations of Storm Drains
      - Spreadsheet to be redistributed
  - Perhaps could become “Adopt a Storm Drain Project”- might also work as neighborhood project for SJ Recert
  - Leave the Leaves Project –
    - Will continue to need more educational efforts. This issue has come up regularly at the Township Council Meetings
  - Gardening for wildlife - speakers to be planned
  - Program for to be held at Senior Center related to Recycling – Date TBD, Heidi will plan

SJ RECERT – DONNA

Review of spread sheet

Donna to send to respective members information about respective categories next week

Goal for completion earlier than last year

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Bike ride -No report
- Recycling – Plastic bag/Skip the Straw education and outreach
  - Group continues to keep meeting
  - Information continues to be distributed about both the change in NJ law
  - Possible state resources are being evaluated for use
  - Potential program for Seniors
- Restaurant Week – Information being distributed
- Trails – Lynn updated status of various paths and trails
- Green Fest (now called Greening Together)- No report at this time



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- The Arts – Lisa- Bottle cap project in process. When completed may be displayed at the West Trenton Train Station
- Energy – Mark- no report

## OLD BUSINESS

- Green Amendment resolution – expected to be reintroduced this year into the legislature

## REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS

- Council
  - Solar ordinance in revision- Chuck Latini looking at it
  - Tree ordinance may need to be revised. Especially due to current airport expansion.
- EEC-nothing to report
- ETRA-nothing to report
- Condemnation-nothing to report

Meeting Concluded 8:30 pm

Next meeting scheduled for 2/23/22 @ 7pm and remains in a Zoom format.

Respectfully submitted,

*Caroline Steward*