



EWING GREEN TEAM

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



EWING GREEN TEAM MINUTES

APRIL 26, 2023

IN ATTENDANCE:

Joanne Mullooney
Sharon McNellis-Kissel
Karen Sare
Charlie Coriell
Heidi Furman
Joe Mirabella
Gary Keel
John Bennett

Lisa Feldman
Evan Crumiller
Mark Wetherbee
Sonya Travis
Karin and Tom Hallinger
Nick Benedetti
Dan Bowen

ARBOR DAY

This Saturday is Arbor Day and the Green Team along with the Environmental Commission are once again donating a nice size tree (Black Gum) to be placed at Watson Park near the Pavilion. Evan is collecting \$20 from whoever wants to donate to help with the cost. Dave Burke, a previous Environmental Commission member and professional landscaper has secured the tree and his crew will plant it. While the weather is predicting rain, the event will go on. The ceremony will be at 9:00 am, it won't be a long one.

MEETING MINUTES

The January, February and March meeting minutes were approved by the membership.

CLEAN-UP EVENTS

We've had 2 successful clean-up events so far this year. On Saturday, April 15th, The Watershed Institute partnered with us to run a stream clean-up at the west branch of the Shabakunk Creek at Home Depot. This is a location that has been in continuous need of attention. We had a great turnout with Green Team members and residents all pitching in. We removed over 4000 tons of trash. Joanne coordinated with Ewing Public Works to come and remove all the trash at the end of the event.

The GT also hosted a clean-up at Moody Park on Saturday, April 22. This is our second year running for a Moody Park cleanup. Sadly, this year the Moody Park fields were in worse shape and needed the attention. We will touch base with the coaches who use the field to make them aware of the trash. The baseball dug outs were in bad shape with lots of trash and recycling.

We're not optimistic that Home Depot will continue to work to collect trash and prevent the same return to trash-ridden creek and its banks. We're going to follow up in 2-3 weeks to see how it looks and hope

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

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it's being maintained. Maybe if they put up some type of fence to prevent the dumping, it might stop it reverting again. We might decide we're fighting a losing battle and just go to an area where we can make a lasting difference.

The information on the 2 stream clean-ups and weight of all trash collected is found in the Green Team's Annual Report. Joanne will send John Bennett, Ewing's Recycling Coordinator, the total amounts collected. In John's position it helps to have numbers to back up our requests for help from the Administration. John B. will let the Township Public Works know where we need pick-ups of the trash collected.

Sharon Sare, our new member, has worked with other Glendale neighbors and organized clean ups at the Shabakunk Park on Olden Ave. They also planted native perennials.

We discussed areas that we should work on next. The closed bowling alley on Scotch Road has been in bad shape. Apparently, truckers park there at night, and they are leaving a lot of garbage strewn about.

There were other clean-ups on the same date – Priya organized one in her neighborhood and Donna Morgan (previous GT member) did a clean-up at the parking lot near Scudders Falls

PARTNERING WITH THE WATERSHED AMBASSADOR

Charlie Coriell, the Watershed Ambassador also attended the March meeting. He covers the Central Delaware River watershed. He mentioned that he could help us host another rain barrel workshop. If we want to do a rain barrel workshop the only day at Hollowbrook that is available is June 10th. Now that the main Community Center is not available, it's challenging to get space at Hollowbrook. The space is in much demand and the space is much smaller. The cost for people to participate in the workshop last time was \$20 which covered the cost of the miscellaneous parts needed. The Watershed has plenty of available barrels. It would be helpful if a GT member volunteered to help Charlie run the workshop.

Charlie also worked on a flyer on education on Storm Water management. This would be a good handout for Shred Day which is coming up on May 6th. Priya is working with Charlie on the educational flyer on storm drain clearing.

SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPING

Joanne passed around samples of the flyer that she and Heidi and Karen Kissel created describing the 12 bad habits to kick for gardening.

ARTS COMMITTEE

Lisa reported that the Arts Commission participated in the 1st TCNJ arts event especially focused on kids – 'Spring into Arts' Day on April 15th 10-2. Students at the college wanted to organize an event for kids. They had local groups host different craft projects and vendors selling crafts. Unfortunately, as the 1st time, it had problems. It was not well laid out.



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The Arts Commission was doing birdhouses. The Green Team had done birdhouses at the Green Fair and kids seemed to like it. But there was no signage to help attendees navigate the event and the Arts Commission was put in a room that no one knew about so they ended up only having about 12 kids.

ANNUAL BIKE RIDE

Garry K. is ready to start planning the community bike ride held on the same day as Community Fest at TCNJ. This year the event will be on September 30th. Last year's ride was successful with between 40-50 riders. Every year Garry and his committee pick a non-profit to receive the proceeds of the event. This last ride had Mercer Street Friends as the organization to receive the funds from the ride. They will start the discussion on choosing this year's organization.

In conjunction with the bike ride we are working with the Ewing Police Department to organize a 'bike rodeo'. It's a bike safety course set up as a 'safety town' and kids learn how to safely ride their bikes. This past year we had the first 'bike rodeo' as part of Community Fest. Capital Health donated free bike helmets.

We learned some dos and don'ts and will better coordinate this 2nd time coming up. We had a few bike donations and hope to advertise this so that more people will donate more bikes at this year's Community Fest.

STORM WATER MANAGEMENT /ADOPT-A-DRAIN

Having people responsible for storm drains throughout Ewing to keep them clear from debris might be a good project to try for one of the grants from Sustainable Jersey. They give out \$20,000, \$10,000, and \$2000 grants. We spent a lot of time and effort mapping the many storm drains throughout Ewing. We had hoped to put this in an easy-to-use web app where Ewing residents could go online and sign up to be responsible for a specific drain on the map.

It would be great if we could figure a way to get this accessible online, and if someone signed up for a specific drain they would receive some sort of clean-up kit, i.e., safety vest and brush and some bags to help residents to clear out debris so all water flows easily into the sewer system.

Some other ideas for grants – replace Township gas powered weed whackers and blowers with all electric or battery operated.

SHRED DAY

May 6th is our upcoming Shred Day. Joanne will send out sign-up genius requests for volunteers. We have 2 - 2 hour shifts 9-11 or 11-1. We ask for 2 people for each shift. GT members help with ID checks (make sure they are Ewing residents.)

Joanne will create a flyer to list what is unacceptable at Shred Day. Apparently, people are wasting this resource that is meant to help people destroy and secure their personal information. People are putting

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in books, magazines, telephone books – all add to unnecessary wasteful costs for this service. Pay per weight of paper tonnage – more items that could be thrown out are costing to the cost of the shredding service.

Joanne will include a list of unacceptable items to help educate people to stop waste in the website notice.

WASTE MANAGEMENT OUTREACH

Repeat ban about straws. Helpful reminder that straws are just wasteful and end-up as litter all over.

GUEST SPEAKERS

Joanne asked if people had ideas for guest speakers and topics of interest. Suggested that we would appreciate a presentation to help educate about solar power. The pros and cons of helping residents make educated decisions if solar is right for them.

Joe M. has recently had solar panels installed at his home and was asked if he could come up with a presentation on all that he has learned, the good, the bad, and the ugly, about going solar. He will create a presentation and will be able to present in 1-2 months.

OUTSIDE REPORTS

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Evan – they are working on 1-minute helpful educational videos that can be posted on YouTube. One about mulch volcanoes around trees will be posted on YouTube and hopefully on the Ewing website. They are looking for other topics.

SITE REVIEW

A lot of the towns in Mercer County are turning down having anything to do with marijuana sales, growing, storing, etc. Ewing has welcomed marijuana as an opportunity for a lot of money to come into our town. There is a growing facility on Olden Ave. (used to be a pool store). It's all white and has art on the outside. It looks odd because there is no entrance in the front. You must go around to the back. They did a nice job of landscaping.

PLANNING BOARD

More plans going before the Planning Board are now being signed by a landscape architect. This is a welcome change.

The meeting ended at 8:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted.

Lisa K. Feldman



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