



# EWING GREEN TEAM

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



## EGT MEETING MINUTES

*Wednesday, May 24<sup>th</sup>*

**Meeting Called to Order** *@7:06 pm at the Hollowbrook Community Center*

**Attendance:** Joanne Mullowney, Heidi Furman, Lisa Feldman. Nick Benedetti, Karin Hollinger, Dan Bowen, Sharon McNellis-Kissell, Mark Wetherbee, Michael Licata, Linda Licata, John Bennett, Charlie Coriell, Jim ?, Karen Stewart-Sare

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Green Team meetings will now be held in the Hollowbrook Gym instead of the Cafeteria.
- Last of collection for the Arbor Day tree planting due.

### MINUTES

- Approve April minutes. See [ewinggreenteam.org/meeting-minutes/](http://ewinggreenteam.org/meeting-minutes/) - Approved

### GUESTS

- Linda and Mike Licata introduced themselves to the group- interested in learning more about gardening.
- Karen Holliger- introduced herself as a concerned citizen regarding the environment

### ADVOCACY

- Joanne reviewed current Legislation described below:
- The Bipartisan Recovering America's Wildlife Act – an opportunity to make a historic environmental difference. The bipartisan Recovering America's Wildlife Act (S.1149) is before Congress again. In 2022, it passed the House 231-190, but didn't make it through the Senate due to disagreements about funding. As a rare bill with bipartisan support, it has a real possibility of passing both houses this year, but we need your help to ensure its passage. This transformative bill, widely considered the biggest piece of environmental legislation since the Endangered Species Act of 1973, aims to protect and restore both native wildlife and plants, with a particular focus on those of greatest conservation need, including endangered or threatened species. We need your help to make this bill pass into law by contacting your US Senators and Congressional Representative. Contact your Senators ([Cory Booker](#) and [Bob Menendez](#)) and urge them to support the Recovering America's Wildlife Act of 2022. Find other Senator's contact information



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here: <https://www.senate.gov/senators/senators-contact.htm>. Suggested text from the New Jersey Native Plant Society is at the end of this agenda.

- The New Jersey Assembly is scheduled to vote **on Thursday, May 25**, on a bill to ban the sale of invasive species in our state. A NJ Senate vote should follow in the coming weeks. We have a real chance of banning the sale of invasive species in our state. Please ask your NJ Assembly and Senate representatives to vote YES on bill [S2186/A3677](#) which would regulate the sale of invasive plant species and establish an Invasive Species Council that will develop an invasive species management strategy.
- Request for Volunteers to keep an eye out for bills in the Legislature that we would be interested in supporting and to update us on them- \_\_\_\_\_

## EGT OUTREACH – LISA, KAREN, AND HEIDI

- West Trenton Garden Club
  - Green team did presentation at their annual Flower Show and won an award
- National Night Out (NNO) 2023 - scheduled for August 1<sup>st</sup>- will be held at the ESCC
  - Volunteers needed to man out booth from 5:30-8 pm
    - Please contact Joanne to volunteer

## SUB COMMITTEE REPORTS

### GARDENING FOR WILDLIFE -JOANNE, HEIDI, AND KAREN

- Green team will continue to encourage Ewing residents to sign up to become certified National Wildlife Federation “Gardens for Wildlife”
- Handout for bad gardening habits.
  - This will be distributed during the next Shred Day
- New Group forming
  - Native Plant Society of NJ – Mercer County Chapter
    - Joanne encouraged group to support new group
    - Perhaps join on Facebook

### THE ARTS/LOCAL ECONOMIES – LISA

- Scarecrow Survey
  - Still pending – but will probably continue
    - Community surveys appear to be in favor of continuing
  - Will be looking for notice in Observer
  - Will plan to announce program thru schools

### BIKE RIDE 2023 – SEPTEMBER 30<sup>TH</sup> - GARRY



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- No report- Meeting scheduled Monday @7pm

## CLEAN COMMUNITY –PRIYA

- No report- Last report continue working on Education Campaign
- Clean up activity reports:
  - Joanne reviewed how to log into Ewing Website and log a complaint regarding a variety of issues.
- Fall Cleanup? – Community-wide with Mayor on board. Jenn has written to the mayor.
  - Joanne looking for committee to work with mayor
    - Perhaps to develop program for collection of TV and other things difficult to dispose of in trash
    - Volunteer for coordinator or program? \_\_\_\_\_

## High School Environmental Club

- Nick and Shelby report:
  - Robotics- Engineering students using for hydroponics
  - Rotary Club adding books on environmental subjects to school library

## NATURAL RESOURCES – WITH EEC

### WATER

#### Stormwater Education

- Adopt a drain outreach – The Watershed a good partner, also DWP.
- Charlie Coriell handout on stormwater education
  - Charlie presented a poster he developed
    - It was well received – will continue to develop plan for its best utilization
- Apply for SJ grant to create an *online* map interface... PSEG Foundation - Grant cycle to be announced in Mid-November and the application deadline is Mid-February.  
[sustainablejersey.com/grants/](http://sustainablejersey.com/grants/)
  - Dan ECC on creating a Youtube video on cleaning storm drain as possible use for grant.
  - Will also consider utilization of stormwater data base as possible grant topic.

#### Climate Action Plan

- Joanne presented below legislation to group.
  - Governor Murphy signed [Senate Bill No. 2607](#) on February 4, 2021 to require the integration of climate vulnerability assessments into future municipal master plan updates. Effective immediately, municipalities are required to include a climate change-related hazard vulnerability assessment in their land use plan elements to analyze current



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and future threats associated with climate change related natural hazards, including increased temperatures, drought, flooding, hurricanes, and sea-level rise. This assessment also must include a build-out analysis of all future development in the municipality, as well as any threats and vulnerabilities associated with this development, and strategies to reduce the risks of climate change-related natural hazards. See <https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/9daab51c2f5542969d50437522e012c4/page/NJ-PLANNING-REQUIREMENTS/>

- Any changes to the Master Plan must now be accompanied by a Climate Action Plan.
- Will f/u with Township Planner to assure compliance

## NEIGHBORHOODS – CAROLINE/SHARON

- Neighborhood groups / Welcome booklet – Caroline
  - Caroline will schedule meeting to begin revision
- Anything we can work on with the Health Department – Sharon? SJ Health Initiatives?
  - Karen and Joanne to meet-report will be presented next meeting

## SJ CERTIFICATION CYCLE

- FYI, the dates have changed. See [sustainablejersey.com/certification/2023-certification-cycle/](https://sustainablejersey.com/certification/2023-certification-cycle/)
- Still discussion regarding desire to continue participation

## WASTE MANAGEMENT

- Shred Day - Oct 14 Thanks to those who worked the May Shred Day.
  - Went well- still issues with improper things being disposed
- Signup Genius available for the Oct date -  
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0d4ea82ca4f49-ewing#/>
- Straw outreach. Concluded.

## Speakers for the coming months

- Joe Mirabella for July – installing a solar array.
- Written to the Friends of Hopewell Valley Open Space about Invasive Species.
- Rutgers Speakers Bureau - <https://speakersbureau.rutgers.edu/>

## OUTSIDE COMMITTEE REPORTS

Council, ETRA, Condemnation, EEC, Site Review and Planning, Arts...

Arts Council- Lisa reported - Main goal to increase membership  
No other reports

Meeting Adjourned @8:47 Pm



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Next meeting 6/28/23 at 7pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Caroline Steward