



# EWING GREEN TEAM

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



## DECEMBER 6, 2023 MINUTES

### In Attendance:

Joanne Mullowney  
Joe Mirabella  
Garry Keel  
Karen Kissel

Dan Bowen  
Nick Benedetti  
Lisa Feldman  
Caroline Steward

## SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

### BIKE RIDE

Garry Keel, who organizes our annual bike ride gave a brief synopsis of this year's annual bike ride held on the same day as the Community Fest at TCNJ. The day started gray and chilly and might be the reason that we did not have as many riders as in the past.

It's usually 8-9 miles long and is a community event that everyone over 18 is welcome to participate in. It is an easy pace that most people can enjoy. This year's non-profit beneficiary was Meals on Wheels of Mercer County. The ride raised over \$800.

Next year will be the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the first ride. We'll have to do something special

### STORM DRAINS

Dan has been working on the data for the storm drains and trying to figure out a way to automate peoples' access and adopting drain entries. The more we can automate the better functioning the database, the more likely it is that people will sign up to take care of specific storm drains.

SJ has various grants that we could apply for help with our adopt-a-storm drain program. Getting real data to help decide how to move forward. We're concerned with the level of response we might get from Ewing residents. We can make the program easy-to-use with financial grant assistance, but it doesn't ensure we will get a good response from residents.

### ANNOUNCEMENT

We will be having a guest speaker at our January meeting. Susan Bristol, a municipal policy specialist with The Watershed will be discussing stormwater issues such as latest requirements. We've done a lot on education and outreach – rain barrel workshops and salt watch (gathering data on level of salt in creeks after snow events and municipalities have salted the roads.)



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## NJ SALT WATCH 2024

We need 3-5 people to volunteer to each do 4 tests at each water access location. Last year we did not have any snow accumulation but there were times that icy roads were salted and people could follow up with the water tests. Water designations have been changed to higher quality to determine the tributaries and had to prove the value of what some of our data collection showed.

Joe, Karen, Mark, and Joanne all volunteered to participate in the data collection. Joanne will get the needed instructions and supplies from the Watershed. This will also be good for 5 points from Sustainable Jersey.

## CONSTRUCTION UPDATES IN EWING

Discussion on roads in Ewing and the changes that we have heard are being planned - that Parkway Ave is going to drastically altered with 'roundabouts' rather than the current traffic light intersections.

Work is now going on to demolish the old Naval warfare Center on Parkway Ave. Area is highly contaminated because of the chemicals used there and lack of concern on how they were to be handled. There has also been much discussion on who would be moving onto this site. It can't be people living there because of the extremely high level of toxicity in land no matter how much they are willing to remove.

The most likely businesses to be able to use this land would be large warehouses where there would be less human contact with whatever contamination is still left in the soil.

If the site does go to warehousing the roads in and out are not geared for large truck traffic and would have to be re-designed for all the new truck traffic coming in and out on to Parkway Ave.

## ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION UPDATE

Environmental Commission is working on credit from NJ's Forestry Service. **This action is a prerequisite for the Tree Hazard Inventory, Tree Maintenance Programs, and Tree Planning Programs actions.** Once the Community Forestry Management Plan action is approved, points can be awarded for these additional actions.

The goal of this action is to encourage municipalities to achieve and maintain accreditation with the New Jersey Urban and Community Forestry Program (NJUCF). Ewing's Forestry plan is still good, and it may be until 2026. We have 3 people who have the necessary core training for SJ



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points. One of the trainings is an all-day training and both Joanne and Evan have taken this. Joanne will check status.

If someone does the online courses, they need to complete the entire program and to complete necessary paperwork to ensure Ewing gets the credit. Environmental Comm may be able to get enough points and will have to see if Green Team members will be acceptable for training points. Each course is one hour and are online as webinars. So, training is flexible you can set your own time.

Next week, Wednesday Dec 13 and Thursday, Dec 14 are the next times these are available. No advance signup, you just have to sign in immediately to make sure you are included. And must stay for the entire webinar to fill out the necessary paperwork. They send certificates of course completion so we want them to go to Ewing Township.

## SPRING STREAM CLEANUP 2024

We signed up for a community clean-up with the Watershed for April 13<sup>th</sup>. The earlier in the spring season, the better to do the clean-up without fear of poison ivy.

We want to make sure Home Depot is not selected since we have done 2 major cleanups of their parking lot and space next to the creek and they don't take care of their property waste wise. Their management seems indifferent and we all think that they need more official enforcement measures to make sure they maintain their property.

We've heard complaints from people upstream in Lawrence from the creek that runs along Home Depot's parking lot. A lot of the waste and refuse continues upstream and ends up as Lawrence's problem.

Joe M. used to work for DEP so he knows who to contact to see if someone can go to the site and maybe some enforcement methods will get more long-term positive results. They can go and take photos of the ongoing problem.

Meeting adjourned 8:05 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Feldman