



# EWING GREEN TEAM

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



## MEETING MINUTES

APRIL 24, 2024

### IN ATTENDANCE:

Joanne Mullowney, Chair  
Lisa Feldman  
Heidi Furman  
Jonathan Cloyd  
Nick Benedetti, Student Ambassador

John Bennett, Ewing Public Works Recycling Coordinator  
Karen Sayre  
Joe Mirabella  
Evan Crumiller  
Mark Wetherbee

### TREES

Collecting \$20 donations for Green Team and Environmental Commission's donated tree being planted for our Arbor Day celebration on Saturday, April 27, at 9:00 am. The tree will be planted at Watson Park. Dan Burke of Rock, Paper Garden and his landscaping crew will plant the tree. We also hope to plant 3 small silky dog woods earned by EGT members at The Watershed Stream Clean-up. The planting will include deer protection for the new tree. One of our previously planted trees at the Benjamin Temple House is missing its deer.

### CLEANUPS

The Watershed Institute shared statistics from our stream clean-up at Hollowbrook on April 13<sup>th</sup>. We collected 1,855 lbs. of trash, and 56 people showed up to help with the clean-up (70 had signed up) despite the inclement weather. There was also another clean-up scheduled for Assumpink Park on the 27<sup>th</sup>. Karen Sayre was scheduled to participate in that one as well.

### SHED DAY

Joanne put out a reminder that May 4<sup>th</sup> is Ewing's first Shred Day of 2024, and we need 4 volunteers in total. We ask for 2 volunteers for the 9-11:00 shift and 2 for the 11:00-1:00 shift. Joanne has already signed up, so we only need 3 more volunteers. Joanne will send out a 'Sign-up Genius' form to all members.

### EWING FALL SPIN BIKE RIDE

This upcoming September's ride will be the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first ride. It's held during CommFest at TCNJ. Garry is not here to be able to give us any updates. More to come.

### CLEANUPS

Talking about areas around Ewing that need clean-up attention – Karen mentioned on Olden Avenue, the restaurant Crab du Jour's back area is really looking bad. Apparently, there is an old cement wall that is in disrepair and falling into the creek that runs along the back of the restaurant. Who would be responsible for this type of debris? We could ask Charlie at the next Environmental Commission meeting.

Also speaking of water and damage that it can cause; the bridge at Watson Park connecting the park to the back of Fisher School was moved due to flooding and is now lopsided.

**Ewinggreenteam.org**

**Contact us: [ewinggreenteam@gmail.com](mailto:ewinggreenteam@gmail.com)**

**Meetings: 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays, 7 p.m. Ewing Senior and Community Center, 999 Lower Ferry Rd., Ewing**



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## ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION UPDATE

There was a discussion about an article that mentions that people are not re-using bags enough to make them cost-effective. They need to be used 12-15 times each. More data is needed to prove this one-way-or-the-other. Is anyone collecting this type of data? Is there any age or ethnic group that affects re-using bags? The EEC will be performing a short study.

## GREEN ROOF TOUR AT THE WATERSHED

Olivia Spildooren from The Watershed Institute (at stream clean-up) mentioned that the Institute building has a green roof and discussed what is involved in its maintenance. The Watershed hires a management team to maintain it. The company specializes in green roofs and comes out 3 times a year for maintenance. It costs about \$1,000 for each visit. They also provide reports on the cleanups.

Some misconceptions: people think that there is no work involved in a green roof, everybody thinks it saves on heating and air conditioning and you don't have to do anything, just let the green plantings grow. All pros – no cons. But that's not necessarily true.

The plans for the new community center currently include a green roof. We're pleased that this 'green' option is being included but believe that a tour and presentation of The Watershed's green roof will help to educate all interested parties about the pros and cons, particularly the maintenance requirements. It's not a leave-it-alone nothing to do accept save money reality. We would like to include officials and staff from the Township join the tour to see the reality. Joanne will send out a poll to see who is interested in attending and which dates and times will work the best.

During the discussion members were interested in comparing a 'green' roof to having solar panels instead. We don't want the concept 'green roof' to sway the decision makers to not consider other options.

Olivia at the Watershed is also available to run a workshop on creating rain barrels and/or rain gardens.

Our Student Ambassador, Nick Benedetti, will be going off to college next year and will be studying Environmental Science. He will introduce our new student ambassador recommendation for next year at our next meeting.

The demolition has begun on the Naval Warfare Center. This will become a combination of warehouse, retail, and nature trails.

The meeting adjournment at 7:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Feldman



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