



EWING GREEN TEAM

Promoting People, the Planet, and Prosperity in Ewing



EWING GREEN TEAM MEETING MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 25, 2024

IN ATTENDANCE:

Joanne Muldowney

Mark Wetherbee

Heidi Furman

Mike Sherr (NJ Watershed Ambassador)

Dan Bowman

Johnathon Cloyd

Lisa Feldman

Kathy Barringer

Karen Kissel

Mike Sherr introduced himself. He is our new Watershed Ambassador, area 11. He offered to work with us on various water projects that we might want to run during his upcoming term.

October 12th is the date of the upcoming Rain Barrel Workshop in partnership with the Watershed Institute, which is being held at Hollowbrook. We already have people signing up. We will have 20 barrels available. So far, 6 people have signed up for this. It's \$25 to sign up for the workshop to do a rain barrel. Karen Kissel and Mike Sherr volunteered to help at the workshop. Ryan Rollero, Director of Public Works will send staff members to The Watershed Institute to pick up the rain barrels and bring them to Hollowbrook.

Public Works monitors and clears our storm drains. They have a GPS system with their trucks that would make this practical. They might be able to apply for a grant from Sustainable Jersey to help with clearing storm drains. The Environmental Commission created a short video on showing how to clear a storm drain. Nicely done.

There are new leaf collection practices this year in Ewing. The Township purchased a truck with the large vacuum so people can once again put their leaves curbside loose. They no longer need to be bagged during the leaf collection period. The rest of the year they must be containerized. However, leaves are picked up by zone (related to the day of the week your trash is picked up) and cannot be out at the curb loose except for their specified pickup weeks. The collection period begins at the end of October and goes thru December with some additional pickup in January as needed.

Dan will share the 'Shape File'. Joanne will send the file with the drain locations.

NJ SALT WATCH

We get points for this activity from Sustainable Jersey. We have participated in this study for the past three years. We've collected at the Shabakunk Creek by Hollowbrook and the Canal on Lower Ferry Road near NJM. Kathy B. volunteered to collect at Jacob's Creek and Bob Kirby had mentioned to Joanne that he could do testing at the creek near his home (around Metekunk Dr.)

BIKE RIDE COMMITTEE

This year Administration opened the ride up to ages 16 and up could participate. They had approximately 35 riders. They are donating their collection to TASK, Trenton Area Soup Kitchen.

Ewinggreenteam.org

Contact us: ewinggreenteam@gmail.com

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



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ARTS COMMITTEE

Lisa will share the Arts Commission's program of featuring local artists at the municipal building. She will get the lists of the artists and their show dates. They also have art receptions as each new artist begins their showing.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

COUNCIL

Dave Schroth, Council Member, reported that:

- the change in the leaf collection has been a highlight for residents. There is a slide show on the website.
- The Senior Center project is going out to bid in 1-2 weeks.
- This year's 9/11 Ceremony had much smaller crowds, we need to figure a way to encourage more participation.
- General Dutko was recently honored at Ft. Dix. He has served for 42 years.
- 3 Members of Town Council are running for re-election, Dave Schroth, Jennifer Keyes-Maloney, and Kevin Baxter.

PLANNING BOARD

The Planning Board meeting is next Thursday night. They will be reviewing the new plans for the Senior Center. Their meeting is the first Thursday of each month. This Thursday, October 3, the Board will be reviewing the plans for the new Community Center on Lower Ferry Road. Please try to attend.

We're interested in learning more about the green roof. We've tried to give input that while this is green, it requires annual maintenance. We visited The Watershed to see their green roof. There are annual expenses for maintenance and requires someone with knowledge on proper care. The Watershed has an annual expense of \$3,000. We want to make sure the Township is aware of this and gets this done by professionals.

NJUCF

Kathy Barringer took online course for Backyard Forestry. We need to double check to make sure that her CEUs are credited to Ewing's account. We need to continue to take continuing education classes to maintain accreditation for Community Forestry Plan. We're in good shape for this coming year with CEUs and our Community Forestry Management Plan is good until 2026. We hope to hire Bill Brash to redo it and the required inventory.

NJ PLASTIC BAG BAN

Thanks to the new ban on plastic bags in New Jersey there are 5 billion less bags in our waste stream.

STOP THE STUFF

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There is a new program 'Stop the Stuff' to have restaurants not automatically add extra items for takeout, i.e. plastic forks, knives, etc. However, places still have trouble with plastic straws. Restaurants still put straws in beverages without people asking. If you see restaurants still putting in plastic straws without customer requesting, notify NJ DEP and they will follow-up.

EWING TREE INVENTORY

The Tree Inventory (Rapid Ash Survey completed by Rutgers in 2015) should be available in [eCode](#), the Township's repository of public documents, as it's considered a public document. Dan has volunteered to look into this.

EWING INSIGHTS – NEW TOWNSHIP E-NEWSLETTER

Ewing has new email newsletters. One that come out midweek and the other, a weekend edition which covers flyers and advertising for weekend events. If you are not receiving it, please sign up for it at ewingnj.org.

Our next meeting will feature Aaron Watson, our Ewing Township Business Administrator who replaced Jim McManimon, and Jenn Rogers, Director of Friends of Hopewell Valley Open Space.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10.

Respectfully submitted.

Lisa K. Feldman