



EWING GREEN TEAM

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



EWING GREEN TEAM MINUTES

DECEMBER 4, 2024

ATTENDEES

Joanne Mullowney	Evan Crumiller
Lexie Freiling	Karen Kissel
Devin Spence	Lisa Feldman
Kathleen Barringer	Dan Bowen
Mark Wetherbee	Ruth Chin

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANJEC is hosting a webinar on Light Pollution, Tuesday, December 10, 5 members can attend for free. Let Joanne know if you would like to sign up.

Joanne would like members to write their 'green' resolutions for the upcoming year. We had done this in previous years. Joanne posts them in our First of the Year newsletter.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

BIKE RIDE

Our annual bike ride, the Ewing Fall Spin, promotes healthy living, a green streets initiative. This year the charity to receive money raised is Trenton Area Soup Kitchen. Tuesday, December 10th, at the Council Meeting Gary Kheel will do a presentation to the Council and present the check to TASK.

NJ SALT WATCH INITIATIVE

ANJEC has another webinar on the 'New Jersey Salt Watch' initiative. We've participated in the Salt Watch for the past three years. Members go to different 'water ways' in Ewing and measure before and after weather events for levels of salt. People do this all over the state. It helps to give data on the levels of salt in our waterways.

TREES

Arbor Day – we usually donate a tree; several trees have been planted at the Benjamin Temple House. The last couple of years we're having trees planted at the John Watson Park. The last two trees have been Black Gums. Thankfully these are drought tolerant.



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We are looking for new continuing education points. The Township is required to earn new CEUs for New Jersey's Urban and Community Forest Management Program's accreditation requirements every year. Ewing currently has 29 CEU's and the requirement is 8 points, so we're okay. We need to send in annual report for 2024 shortly to be accredited for the work we have done this year.

The Tree Ordinance also needs to be updated to meet the last stormwater regs.

STORMWATER

Storm Water requirements must be updated to meet new requirements.

Looking to make a list of all detention basins, both private and on public land. Town Council has mentioned that they would like to do something with the detention basin on the Municipal Building.

FALL LEAF PICKUP

The new leaf collection is going back to residents raking all the leaves to the curb for pick up with the new Ewing truck that picks up the leaves at the curb. The township is trying to manage it with a very tight collection schedule and plenty of advertising to help residents to realize where and when they can put out their leaves to better keep the storm drains clear.

SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESSES

Looking for ideas to help bring in customers. Restaurant Week will occur at the end of April. Local restaurants participate by offering special prices or special deals that help to encourage residents to dine out. Last year 12 restaurants participated in the annual event. Members of the Green Team visit local restaurants to get them to participate and this year we will also employ the Ewing Department of Communications to get the word out with the newsletter and on social media.

GREEN BUSINESS RECOGNITION PROGRAM

Evan oversees our Green Business promotion. This is a Sustainable Jersey priority action that we will need to help become certified.

STUDENT AMBASSADOR

Cassidy Burns is our Ewing High School contact for their Sustainable program at the school. We need to discuss our student ambassador from the school's green program to attend our meetings and hopefully coordinate some activities.



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PLASTIC BAGS

An article came out about the results of banning plastic bags. Apparently, people are still forgetting to bring in their reusable bags, so they end up buying the cheap bags offered by the grocery store. It would be helpful if we had signs out in the parking lot reminding shoppers to bring in their bags.

‘Skip the Stuff’ is a program for restaurants, or any take-home meal service to no longer include the plastic silverware, straw, or any other plastic items in with the meal. People would have to request these items; they would no longer be included.

ROAD SALT VIDEO FROM ANJEC

We showed snippets from the ANJEC webinar to give meeting participants highlights of the content.

- Road salt testing program is measuring salt levels in our waterways before and after a weather event, i.e. snow or rain. We’ve participated in this for the last 3 years. the Watershed runs this throughout the state. This helps to follow the amount of salt being washed into our local water.
- ANJEC storm water impact – helps to educate students, environmental groups.
- Road salt is effective on our roads down to 20 degrees. More exposure to water lowers the temperatures and lower freezing point on a road.
- Too much salt in our waterways means no longer fresh water, nutrients are leached out. This affects the normal cycle. Salt does not go away. This could be dangerous. Salt does not go away, it is corrosive.
- Helpful for volunteers to help baseline reading for salt in water. Below 50 ‰ is okay. 650 is extremely high. It stays elevated even after months.

The EGT is looking for people to do the measurements. Kathy B. will do Jacobs Creek, that’s helpful since we’re never done that before. If you want to help, let Joanne know. She will register us in their program. She will also get the test strips/kit. Devin will do Shabakunk/Temple Park. Shabakunk Hills off Lopatcong- Bob Kirby. Ruth Chin will do the canal by Wilburtha Road.

The meeting adjourned at 8:43.

Submitted by Lisa Feldman