



EWING GREEN TEAM

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



EGT MEETING AGENDA MINUTES

Wednesday, February 26, 2025

ATTENDEES

Joanne Mullowney
Mark Wetherbee
Heidi Furman
Joe Mirabella
Sonya Travis
Lisa Feldman

Kathi Barringer
Devin Spence
Karen Steward-Sare
Alexis Freiling
Dave Schroth (Town Council)

WELCOME / CALL TO ORDER

Voted to approve minutes from October 2024, December 2024, and January 2025.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Election of Officers - Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary

Joanne has been Chair since 2015 and needs someone else to step up. Joanne will be willing to stay Chair for this year if someone would like to take on Vice Chair and could learn what is involved in this position. Devin Spence volunteered and was voted Vice Chair, Joanne remains Chair for 2025.

Kathi Barringer will take on the duties of Secretary, suggests recording the meeting and transcribing from the recording.

- EGT Annual Report published - <https://ewinggreenteam.org/about/reports/>
Joanne did the annual report. This step is necessary to submit for Certification. The next deadline is May 16th• We should be able to complete and write up the actions that are required for Silver Certification if Township management agrees. We get feedback if action still needs to be taken.

CONTINUING EDUCATION



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- NJ Native Plant Society annual conference

Some of the webinars that we have been encouraged to attend offer CEUs (continuing education units) that we can use for credit towards our annual NJ Urban and Community Forestry certification. We have 4 GT members who are attending the NJ Native Plant Society event on March 1st. This will give us 12 CEUs.

SUB COMMITTEES

SUSTAINABLE JERSEY

SJ Overview and Ewing participation. Ewing submitted its fifth SJ submission this past weekend. In the past we had the following record:

- 2013: Bronze Certification, 14 actions for 185 points across 8 categories
- 2016: Silver Certification, 36 actions for 460 points across 14 categories
- 2016: Sustainability Champion Award for Medium Size (5,000 - 39,999) Municipalities. (The award is for receiving the highest number of points in this population category)
- 2019: Silver Certification, 45 actions for 510 points across 16 categories
- 2022: Silver Certification, 43 actions for 465 points across 16 categories

TREES

The Ewing Township Tree Ordinance is in the process of being updated as part of the requirements for the Stormwater Management Plan. Update from Dave.

The update to our Tree Ordinance was voted and adopted by Township Council on January 28th.. Our ordinance is now in better compliance with DEP's requirements. This also helps with new stormwater regulations. Changes included the wording on oversight of County and State properties. We do not have the regulatory authority to enforce Township ordinances on those properties.

- Joanne worked on the Annual Report with Ryan for the NJ Urban and Community Forestry Management Program recertification. Ewing had 33 CEUs for the required continuing education credits out of the needed 8. We were in good shape for our submission and were certified.



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We had well over the required \$2.00 per capita. In total, our accomplishments would merit us a Tree City USA designation. We plan on applying next year.

- Annual Arbor Day celebration

Arbor Day is April 25th (we celebrate on Saturday 26th). Every year since 2018 the EGT has donated a tree, along with Environmental Commission.

Originally, we donated trees at Benjamin Temple House, along the driveway. The last couple of years we donated nice sized trees at Watson Park. They were about \$300+ and \$200 for the planting. Dan Burke, local landscaper has his people dig and plant the tree. People usually donate \$20. Any suggestions for this year's location?

Large grants are being applied for updating Limato Field and soccer fields behind the Municipal Building. Maybe donate a tree for one of these locations? Maybe plant smaller trees, which is less expensive, we could create a small grove (3 trees?). The smaller trees have less transplant shock. We need to think about deer pressure, so perhaps Public Works could help with protective fencing around new trees. Joanne will speak to Ryan Rollero, Public Works Director, to see if they would be able to help with fencing.

Friends of Hopewell Valley Open Space (FOHVOS) has an annual sale (1/2 off) on native plants, and it just started today (Feb 26). The sale is for 10 days. They might be a good source for us to buy 3 of 4 small 2 gallon or 7-gallon size trees.

STORMWATER/WATER ISSUES

- NJ Salt Watch – members are continuing to report in.
Kathi B. did Jacob's Creek (bottom of Bear Tavern Road). On December 15 there was almost no salt, 49 ppm. However, her most recent check was 114 ppm. We will do one last test. Everyone needs to get additional test strips. These are no longer free -The Watershed now asks for a donation. (Joanne gave \$80 to cover the cost of our project)

Bob Kirby, Sonya T., Karen S., Karen B., and Joanne all participated. You can go online at



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theWatershed.org to see all sites in New Jersey and their findings. This is our 4th year of participation.

- Annual stream cleanup with The Watershed on Saturday, April 12. It will be at Hollowbrook.
- Looking into the possibility of a rain garden workshop and also a stream educational testing session in one of our local waterways.
- National program' Wild and Scenic Rivers' designation. Town Council gave their support to apply for designation. This helps to protect our waterways, no downside.

Bike Ride – Garry

- Start up after tax season. 11th

CLEAN COMMUNITY – KAREN

Joseph Andrew(?) TCNJ offered his fraternity to help. We need to be aware of TCNJ's schedule to consider getting student volunteers.

We want to do a 'Mayor's clean-up' in spring. People could choose the location where they want to do clean-up. Neighborhood associations could get involved.

Keep America Beautiful-maybe we could do a clean-up in conjunction with the 250th celebration of US. Karen can sign Ewing up and coordinate with KAB coordinator.

THE ARTS - LISA

The Arts Commission's featured artist program continues to be successful. Local Ewing artists can display their work in the 2 hallways of the Municipal center on Jake Garzio Drive. Artists sign up for 1-2 months to keep their work on display and can also sell their work as well.

Each new artist can choose to have a reception to introduce their work. Light refreshments are offered. The artists are there to answer questions and greet guests. As they continue to do this, they are pleased to expand this fun event. They just had our Valentine's Day reception that included authors and poets reading selections of



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their work, with fun music. They are continually looking for new artists and various art forms, not just visual medium. They had a great turnout.

They've also had 2 local non-profits, HomeFront and Arc Mercer who have wonderful in-house art programs also display their various art. These events have become very popular, music, karaoke and even dancing. Again, great selling opportunities with a variety of types of work being purchased at the reception.

Support Local Business

Restaurant Week 2025 – April 26 – May 4

The Township will do a physical mailing to the 110 restaurants/food establishments to get them to participate. Red Berry and Rita's Ice have already signed up.

Each place can decide what they want to do, a special price, certain selections on special. It's up to each establishment.

Joanne has list of all places and people can split it up to commit where they will go to share flyers about event. Leaving the flyer with the manager or owner to let them decide if they want to participate and what they will offer. We're only to leave the flyer and let them follow-up to let us know if they will participate. We don't go back.

GARDEN TOUR

The West Trenton Garden Club reached out to Joanne to see if we could do another garden tour in June. In the past we have been very successful working with West Trenton as well as Girl Scout Troops in coordinating this popular event. We split the money with all 3 groups involved. And hopefully it will again include plein-air artists set up in various gardens. This was very well received. We're trying to remember how much it cost. Was it \$10/person? Will have to research the last tour (before Covid).

WASTE MANAGEMENT

We ask that each member pick one day in either the spring or the fall to support this event.

Shred Days - May 10 & October 4th. Joanne will send out sign-up genius for members to



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sign up for a 2-hour shift. Shifts are 9-11 or 11-1:00

Climate Action - Alexis Freiling

We need to focus on local actions where we might be able to affect change, since national interest will not be there.

We can join various national coalitions that will be working on these issues. One such organization is 'America is all in Coalition'. These are free to sign up. She will review different opportunities and keep us updated.

One group is called 'Climate Mayors' **Climate Mayors** is a bipartisan network that has mobilized more than 750 U.S. mayors since 2014, demonstrating climate leadership through meaningful actions ...

OUTSIDE COMMITTEE REPORTS

The Environmental Commission is working on signs for grocery parking lots to remind people to bring in their bags.

'Skip the Stuff' campaign has 3 municipalities in New Jersey who have passed ordinances. This is for food establishments to not automatically put in silverware, straws, napkins, etc.

The Planning Board is re-examining Ewing's Master Plan. Will do an initial report?

The meeting adjourned at 8:50pm.

Minutes supplied by Lisa Feldman