

EWING GREEN TEAM

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

EGT MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, March 26, 2025

ATTENDEES

Joanne Mallowney, Mark Wetherbee, Heidi Furman, Joe Mirabella, Sonya Travis, Lisa Feldman, Kathi Barringer, Devin Spence, Karen Steward-Sare, Karen Kissell, Alexis Freiling, Mike Sherr (Americorps Watershed Ambassador), Daniel Coughlan (Guest), Ryan Lelache (Guest)

WELCOME/CALL TO ORDER

Voted to approve minutes from February 2025.

Mike Sherr, Daniel Coughlan and Ryan Lelache introduced themselves.

SUBCOMMITTEES

SUSTAINABLE JERSEY

Ewing has currently earned Bronze status from our February submission [Submitted 225 points/195 approved]. We can add new actions mid-May and have another opportunity in July, but Township Management feels Bronze is enough for now, Township staff have a lot on their plates, not much time to write up and submit more actions at this point

TREES

Annual Arbor Day celebration is scheduled for Saturday, April 26th, at 9:00am. Each Green Team member donates \$20 for a tree. Can pay via check, or Venmo [Evan to set that up]. Township will donate three trees, perhaps Police Benevolent Assoc will donate another. Planting to take place at Municipal Center walking track, to replace Ash trees that were taken down due to Ash borer. Green Team has goal of obtaining Tree City USA status [we already spend \$2 per capita on trees which qualifies us for this status].

STORMWATER/WATER

Mike Sherr reported on his locations at Shabakunk, north of TCNJ and Woolsey Park in Hopewell. The Team agreed to finish testing by end of March.

Annual stream cleanup scheduled for Saturday, April 12th, 9:00am - 11:00am, again at Hollowbrook.

Rain garden workshop is scheduled for May 17th, 10:00am-NOON in Hollowbrook Community Room, and a \$10 donation is requested.

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An educational stream testing seminar is scheduled for June 21st [June 28th is the rain date]. Mike Sherr [Watershed Ambassador] is running it. A quick ZOOM [?] meeting will be held prior to the seminar to go over the specifics with attendees. Max participants = 20. Bring waders, nets, and buckets if you have them. Mike plans to provide these materials also.

BIKE RIDE- GARRY

Start planning after tax season. This year is the 11th Anniversary.

CLEAN COMMUNITY – KAREN

First Saturday in May. Participants choose the site and bring trash to a central location for pick up [part of KEEP AMERICA BEAUTIFUL program]. Sites TBD. Karen and Devin to work on flyer. To be called Mayor's Clean Up?

THE ARTS -- LISA

The Municipal Building Featured Artist Program continues to be a success. Discussed potential for local musician involvement.

Welcome to Ewing sites idea . . . add Angel E-wings for photo ops.

Bring back garden tours plus plein-air artists on site? West Trenton Garden Club is interested in collaborating again this year [in June].

SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESS

Restaurant Week 2025 – April 26 – May 4. Need people to continue to go door to door to sign up participants. Discussed approaching the new Vietnamese and Mexican restaurants near Glendale neighborhood. Deadline to register is April 8th. All Ewing restaurants were mailed/emailed flyers. Only four have signed up so far.

WASTE MANAGEMENT

May 10 is the spring Shred date. The Fall event is on October 4th. We need four volunteers for each shred event to man two shifts of two hours each. Joanne will send a Sign-up Genius to team members when we get closer to the event.

CLIMATE ACTION -- LEXY FREILING

Discussed tracking bills at the State Legislature [<https://njleg.state.nj.us>]. You can create an account using your email address and subscribe to any bills you want to track.

Also discussed joining the CLIMATE CABINET EDUCATION COHORT. This is an organization for elected officials and government bodies to track climate policy initiatives [a cohesive group of organizations with similar goals]. Question, how is this organization funded?

What we would like to promote...



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Recommendations for a *DO NOT PLANT INVASIVE SPECIES* list to add to the MLU [MUNICIPAL LAND USE LAW] Bountiful Gardens recently announced a partnership with a native nursery and the Invasive Species bill just passed in the Senate [DEP is on board, hopefully it will pass this time]. Suggest change the % of native plants required for new construction. It is now 40%. The recommended number is 70%. Aaron thought this was too high and countered with 50% [hard to find native plants].

Joanne suggested the Team read *Bringing Nature Home* by Dough Tallamy.

RYAN, DAN, LEXI, DEVIN, KAREN K. AND JOANNE volunteered to back this effort in Ewing.

Open Space and Bike Plans to add to the Master Plan. REEXAMINATION REPORT HAS BEEN PUBLISHED TO ECODE

Climate Change Element addition to the Master Plan NOW A REQUIREMENT WHEN UPDATING MASTER PLAN

To Do List . . .

International Dark Skies Week beginning April 21st. Caroline will write an article for the website/newsletter. Newsletter can include a link to the video Joanne shared at our meeting and can be paired with an action point [i.e. suggestion to buy yellow lights. DAN will reach out to Ron @PRINCETON ASTRONOMY SOCIETY RE: informing the public about Dark Skies Week.

Native Plant Month ... How to celebrate?... it's in April!!! Very soon. POLLINATOR DAY, April 12th @ Bountiful Gardens. ALEXI will send a pdf to JOANNE/JULIE to include in our Ewing newsletter. 8,000-9,000 people receive this email each week. Will also explore potential to include a discount for Ewing residents.

Earth Day April 21

National Gardening for Wildlife Month – May

Bike safety... week / month ? May

Joe Mirabella solar panel report?...REPORT IN APRIL OR MAY

JEN ROGERS of Friends of Hopewell Valley Open Space and TCNJ students would like to present to our team. May or June.

Discuss changing meeting dates to earlier in the month so we can be better positioned to advertise in the Ewing Observer.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55pm.

Minutes prepared by Kathi Barringer