



EWING GREEN TEAM

Promoting People, the Planet, and Prosperity in Ewing



EGT MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, May 28, 2025

ATTENDEES

- Joanne Mullowney, Mark Wetherbee, Ryan Lelache, Daniel Coughlan, Karen Steward-Sare, Heidi Furman, Suzanne Geherty, Sean Geherty, Joe Mirabella, Charlie Maack, Eileen Antolino, Lisa Feldman, Aaron Watson, Sonya Travis, Karen Kissell, Ethan Grant, Devin Spence, Kaitlin Muccio, Jenn Rogers, Brad Fay, Carl Spence, Eddie Roberts, Evan Crumiller

WELCOME / CALL TO ORDER

- Ewing Green Team voted to approve April 2025 meeting minutes

GUESTS

- Members of the Ewing Environmental Commission joined for a Joint Meeting
- Eileen Antolino, presenting as part of the Environmental Commission meeting agenda
- Jenn Rogers and Kaitlin Muccio, presenting on behalf of FoVHOS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Arbor Day:** \$380 was collected by EGT toward tree planting done by Ewing DPW
- **Spring Cleanup:** Thanks to Karen and Devin for organizing; 350lb of trash was collected, and the team will be exploring partnerships for future events to increase outreach
- **Shred Day:** Thanks to Devin, Lexi, Sonia, and Joanne for coordinating the event
- **Rain Garden Workshop:** Had 15 attendees, run in conjunction with Watershed Institute
- **Stream Cleanup Stats:** 38 attendees, despite bad weather; collected 1,040lbs of trash

EC BUSINESS

- Update on Environmental Commission effort to make signs for local supermarkets to remind patrons to bring in their reusable bags, posted in the supermarket parking lots
- Presentation by Eileen Antolino regarding environmental concerns about a new subdivision plan in her neighborhood



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- Discussed proposed subdivision at the corner of Weber and Chelsea, where initial demolition and site preparation work is underway
 - Zoning for the area is set at 75 x 100 ft, but proposed lots would be 40 x 100 ft
 - Concerns about elevations not being aligned with other properties, lack of landscape plan, privacy issues for adjacent properties, and environmental issues
- Request to repurpose one of six proposed lots as a pocket park to support the neighborhood and help with runoff, in addition to landscape and elevation additions

GUEST SPEAKERS

TCNJ & EWING PARKS CONSERVATION PLAN PROPOSAL

- Jenn and Katelyn from FoHVOS presented Ewing Parks Conservation Plan in joint effort between TCNJ and FoHVOS, with a focus on preserving and stewarding lands in Ewing Twp
- FoHVOS was awarded a grant for TCNJ internships; worked with 4 students for 2024-25 school year to create conservation plan for campus, plus 3 municipal parks in Ewing Twp
 - Plan is in draft (not finalized), and will be made available and open to comment from the community ahead of finalizing the plan by end of June 2025
- Stewardship Vision: Mature Forests, Wildlife Corridors, Native Meadows
- Threats to Conservation Values: Invasive Species, Altered Soils, Deer Overabundance
- Ecological Context of Parks: Temple, John Watson, and Hollow Brook Parks
 - Mix of GIS data collection on geology, current vs historic land cover, rare species sightings; in addition to mapping habitats, assessing invasive vs native species
 - Goal to ID priority habitat patches to direct stewardship and recovery efforts
 - Historic land surveys show agricultural land (altered soil) open to invasives
 - High percentage of historic forests remain in these parks (60-83%)
 - Mapped 41 habitat patches across three parks; 6 patches of mowed lawn
 - Invasive Species Coverage: John Watson 96%, Temple 100%, Hollow Brook 37%
- FoHVOS Proposed Stewardship Recommendations
 - Start with Deer Management Programs (to reduce grazing pressure and impacts)
 - Invasive Species Removal by Action Code (Mechanical, Chemical, Biological)
 - Restoration of Land through Native Plantings, Stewardship, Long-Term Monitoring
- Highlights from Discussion & Questions
 - Need to explore deer management education for the Ewing Township community
 - FoHVOS recommendations to go to Ewing Township councils for review
 - Plan includes proposed steps for implementation, cost estimation over 10 years



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JOINT EGT AND EEC EWING 250 PLANNING SESSION

- Planning for 250th anniversary of the United States of America (2026)
 - Planting 250 Trees
 - Confirmed EGT is allowed to fundraise for this effort
 - Will be forming a 250 Trees committee to brainstorm for this initiative
 - Interest shared in establishing a joint program between EGT and EEC
 - Walking Tours / Groups
 - Considering partnership with Historic Preservation Commission
 - Bike Ride
 - Considering Revolutionary War theme, riding past historic sites in town
 - Clean Ups
 - Explore partnerships with Elks, Scouts, schools, businesses for the Fall 2025
 - Scarecrows
 - Possible Revolutionary War themed proposal was discussed
 - Garden Tour
 - Focus on native plants that might have been in colonial-era gardens
- Will pick back up planning as part of our next meeting (June 2025) for more ideas

SUB COMMITTEES

Bike Ride

- Will be the kickoff to the Ewing Township Fall Community Fest in October 2025
- Looking for someone to run this year's program; reach out to Joanne if interested

Natives Committee

- Presentation for next month's meeting (June 2025)

2025 UPCOMING MEETING DATES AND LOCATIONS

- Starting next meeting (June 25th), we will resume meeting at Hollowbrook in the Community Room through the rest of 2025 meetings
- No meetings will be held in August and November
- Meeting for December will be Dec 3rd (First Wednesday due to end of the year holidays)

Respectfully submitted,

Ryan LeLache