



EWING GREEN TEAM

Promoting People, the Planet, and Prosperity in Ewing



EGT MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, January 28, 2026

ATTENDEES

- Joanne Mallowney, Sonya Travis, Mark Wetherbee, Heidi Furman, Devin Spence, Ryan Lelache, Lexy Freiling, Caroline O'Brien, Karen Kissel, Kevin Baxter

WELCOME / CALL TO ORDER

- Welcomed and swore in new members:
 - Karen Kissel, Alexis (Lexy) Freiling, Ryan Lelache
 - Joanne Mallowney (Reappointed)
 - Not Present: Gary Keel (Reappointed), John Bennett (Reappointed)
- Elected officers for 2026 Sustainable Ewing Green Team:
 - Secretary: Ryan Lelache
 - Co-Vice Chairs: Karen Kissel, Lexy Freiling
 - Chair: Joanne Mallowney
- The team welcomed Kevin Baxter as the 2026 Council Liaison

ANNOUNCEMENTS & COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Bike Ride:** Plan will be to ride from Washington Crossing (NJ) to the Old Barracks; Joanne and the Co-Vice Chairs to reach out to the Bike Committee to discuss next steps
 - Heidi has contacts at Trenton Cycling Revolution; will discuss a potential partnership
 - Per Kevin and Joanne, the Ewing Police Chief said there should be no issues with a multi-district police escort for the event
- **Clean Communities:** Discussed both the Spring Cleanup and Stream Cleanup
 - Spring Cleanup – Since we did not host a Fall Cleanup last year, want to get an early start; considering a partnership with the Recreation Commission; Date and park TBD
 - Stream Cleanup – Discussed alternatives to Hollowbrook, including sections of the Shabakunk Creek near Olden Ave and behind the Ewing Municipal Buildings
 - Joanne to follow up via email regarding ownership of the land around these other locations and accessibility to the waterfront
 - Stream Cleanup date is currently set for Saturday, April 18th



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- The team also discussed possibilities of setting up some kind of catchment for debris around areas where the waterways enter and exit Ewing Township, and mentioned reaching out to The Watershed Institute for input on this idea
- **Health Initiative (250 Mile Virtual Challenge):** Reminder was given for the EGT members to sign up at <https://runsignup.com/Race/NJ/Ewing/Ewing250Challenge>; so far we have about 30-50 individuals signed up
- **250 Trees Initiative:** Pledge to Plant initiatives are underway
 - Devin and Aaron to connect about business outreach
 - Discussed Glendale Civic Association's neighborhood initiative and partnership with Bountiful Gardens to source wholesale discounts on native trees, free delivery, etc.
 - Ryan to share materials with Joanne and Karen to review, specifically materials prepared by GCA and Bountiful Gardens about tree planting, care, etc.
- **Tree Education (Arbor Day):** Planning a celebration for the last Saturday in April, would like to repeat last year's effort to donate a tree; estimated \$20 per person contribution
- **Native Plant Initiative:** Joanne raised an opportunity from Jennifer Hoh to help with designing a native plant garden at Lore Elementary as part of a grant they received
 - Karen, Heidi, and Sonya offered interest in helping with design efforts
 - Lexy also offered help coordinating volunteers if needed via the Native Plant Society
- **Sustainable Jersey:**
 - Joanne noted that our Bronze certification was awarded for 2026 and is good through 2028; no new certification candidates will be available for 2026 however due to site renovations by Sustainable Jersey – to revisit Silver certification requirements and opportunities in 2026-27
 - The team discussed an upcoming grant deadline from Sustainable Jersey sponsored by PSE&G, potentially looking into opportunities to use funds for either tree plantings (250 Trees Initiative) or a native plant garden near the municipal building
 - Ultimately the team decided to reach out to Aaron about potential approvals, but that we may revisit this later in the year due to the tight deadline (Feb 13th)
 - The team also briefly discussed the inclusive playground planned for the new Senior & Community Center, which is meant to include a sensory garden; Joanne made sure the designer is aware that new plantings must be at least 40% native species



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NEW BUSINESS

- **Community Forestry Management Plan (CFMP), Environmental / Natural Resource Inventory (ERI/NRI), and Master Plan Updates:**
 - ERI/NRI expires in 2026; Joanne noted that Chuck will include this as part of the revised Master Plan (in progress); Kevin noted this includes open space and bike plans (connective trails for walking and biking)
- **Hopewell Flower Hill Wetlands / Bull Run Development: A**
 - The team discussed the TCNJ “Flower Hill” wetlands area and planned potential development, and efforts by TCNJ’s student environmental club and local community members to ensure environmental impact reports are properly executed before any sales or development begins on this property; so far, as far as members engaged in discussion with the community are aware, this has not been completed

CONCLUSION

- Team voted to approve the October minutes; December minutes are still to be completed and voted on next meeting (February 25, 2026)