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## EGT MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, February 25, 2026

### ATTENDEES

- Joanne Mallowney, Sonya Travis, Mark Wetherbee, David Stein, Ryan Lelache, Karen Sare, Karen Kissel, Caroline O'Brien, Mike Sherr, Matthew Tunkel

### WELCOME / CALL TO ORDER

- Meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM EST
- Welcomed and introduced special guests, Matthew Tunkel and Mike Sherr
  - Matthew was recently appointed as Watershed Ambassador
  - Mike recently took on a role with the NJ Tree Foundation (details below)

### GUEST PRESENTATION

- NJ Tree Foundation
  - Mike Sherr shared about the foundation and his new role, which includes making use of USDA grant funding to plan trees in underserved communities
  - Currently the foundation has focus areas in Newark (North) and Camden (South), but is looking to expand into the Central NJ (Trenton) and NJ Shore areas
  - Conversations underway with Ewing Township about a possible tree planting initiative in the Southard Street area, with details and planning still under discussion
  - Mike also confirmed he organizes several tree giveaways (typically fruit-bearing trees) throughout the year, and can share more information about upcoming events

### ANNOUNCEMENTS & COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Bike Ride:** Confirmed last month's plans for the Fall Spin event to focus on a ride from Washington Crossing (NJ) to the Old Barracks in Trenton; no date has yet been selected
  - There will be a meeting of the Bike Committee held on March 18<sup>th</sup> at the Hollowbrook Community Center

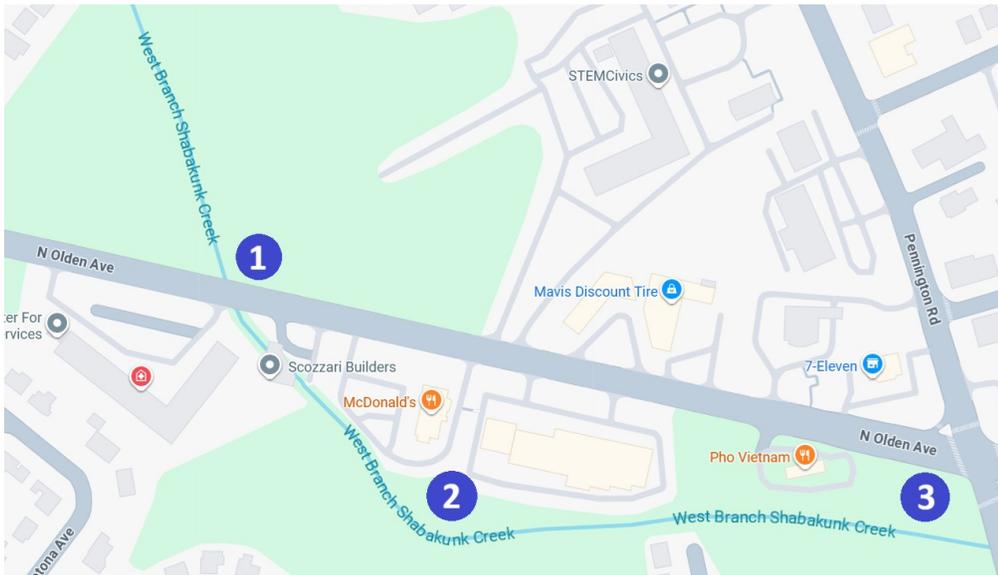


# EWING GREEN TEAM

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- **Clean Communities:** Discussed having an additional stream cleanup in the early Spring
  - Hollowbrook Stream Cleanup – Sponsored by the Watershed Institute, to be held on Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup>; Joanne has been in contact with Olivia at Watershed Institute
  - Shabakunk Stream Cleanup – Planned for Saturday, April 4<sup>th</sup> from 9a-11a and will be held at one or more entrances to be determined along Olden Ave (see below)
    - Entrance Point 1 would be near Incarnation St James Church across from McDonald’s; Karen Sare to speak to Incarnation about parking availability
    - Entrance Point 2 is behind the McDonald’s and the adjacent shopping center; Joanne to reach out about confirming land ownership to avoid trespassing
    - Entrance Point 3 would be further up Olden Ave near the intersection with Pennington Road; same as above regarding confirming land ownership



- Spring Cleanup – As mentioned in last month’s meeting, we are considering a potential partnership with the Recreation Commission; Date and specific park TBD
- **Health Initiative (250 Mile Virtual Challenge):** Reminder to sign up at <https://runsignup.com/Race/NJ/Ewing/Ewing250Challenge> and to log miles walked/run
- **Trees:**
  - Pledge to Plant initiatives for the 250 Trees Initiative are underway
    - Since Devin was not present, an update about business outreach was deferred
    - Joanne has reached out to Bountiful Gardens to look into a similar wholesale deal (as shared by Glendale Civic Association members); still waiting to hear back



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- The team also discussed our Arbor Day celebration date and plans to donate a tree again this year in partnership with the Environmental Commission, estimated at a \$20 per person donation to support purchase of a tree
  - **Note of Correction:** Following the meeting, Joanne confirmed via email that Arbor Day this year is on Friday, April 24<sup>th</sup> and that the planned date for our Arbor Day event will be on the morning of Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup>
- **Native Plant Initiative:** Joanne followed up with Karen Kissel regarding last month's mention of an offer Jennifer Hoh to help with designing a native plant garden at Lore Elementary as part of a grant they submitted for
  - Karen confirmed that Jennifer is still awaiting a response on the grant application, and that they are currently working on procuring a green house for the school
  - They are not yet ready for help from EGT, but will let the team know when they are
- **Restaurant Week:** Discussed timing for the event, namely avoiding overlapping with Hopewell Township's restaurant week (April 13<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup>)
  - After much discussion, the team aligned on the dates of April 25<sup>th</sup> to May 3<sup>rd</sup>, to allow both weekends around Arbor Day to be part of the event
- **Shred Day:** Discussed possible changes to the event due to the need to identify and contract with a new company for the springtime event; DPW will follow up with details
- **Native Plant Society Conference:** Let the team know about the upcoming annual conference event for the NJ Native Plant Society
  - The event will take place on March 7<sup>th</sup> and requires both membership and purchase of a ticket to attend in person; online attendance does not require membership, but members receive a discount on tickets (\$30 for non-members, \$20 for members)
- **Hopewell Flower Hill Wetlands / Bull Run Development:** Devin was not in attendance to provide a full update, but Sonya shared that a meeting to discuss next steps is planned for next month and a website is coming soon; conversations are ongoing in cooperation with CRAN (Climate Revolution Action Network)

## NEW BUSINESS

- **Community Forestry Management Plan (CFMP), Environmental / Natural Resource Inventory (ERI/NRI), and Master Plan Updates:**
  - No new updates since last meeting, though these items were revisited for the benefit of our guests Mike Sherr and Matthew Tunkel and new attendee David Stein



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- **Ewing Township Parks Improvements:** Joanne raised two items on this topic
  - Watson Park: There is a grant application out for improvements to Watson Park, and meetings are upcoming in March to discuss. There was also a survey sent out via the Ewing Township newsletter that is linked here: <https://www.cognitoforms.com/EwingTownship1/JohnSWatsonParkCommunitySurvey>
  - Scoping Hearing: Coming up on March 19<sup>th</sup> at the Municipal Building there is a hearing planned related to the relocation of DPW facilities to an area that is part of NJ DEP's Green Acres program. More detail can be found at this link: <https://ewingnj.org/government/news/2008-notice-of-njdep-green-acres-scoping-hearing>

## CONCLUSION

- The team deferred approval of December 2025 and January 2026 minutes due to the timing of sharing the minutes with the team assembled prior to the meeting; these and February's minutes will be voted on in their totality at the next meeting (March 25<sup>th</sup>)
- Team motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:17 PM EST