



EWING GREEN TEAM

Promoting People, the Planet, and Prosperity in Ewing



MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, March 25, 2026

ATTENDEES

- Joanne Mallowney, Lexy Freiling, Ryan Lelache, Mark Wetherbee, Joe Mirabella, David Stein, Hannah Lee

WELCOME & CALL TO ORDER

- **Meeting was called to order at 7:06 PM ET**
- Meeting minutes for December 2025, January 2026 and February 2026 were approved unanimously by the assembled attendees
- The present members explained Sustainable Jersey to some of our newer attendees

ANNOUNCEMENTS & COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Bike Ride Event**
 - Joanne provided an update on conversations happening with Washington Crossing Park and the Old Barracks (Trenton) for permissions related to gatherings for the event, as well as with police in the municipalities the event will run through related to security escorts
 - The group discussed possibilities for cross-promotion with the other townships who would be passing through for the event, as well as with Greater Mercer TMA (gmtma.org)
- **Clean Communities Events**
 - Joanne provided an update on Karen Sare's behalf regarding the Township not being in favor of an event at Shabakunk Creek, due to safety concerns
 - Continuing with planning for the Spring Stream Cleanup event on Saturday, April 18th from 9:00 – 11:00 AM at Hollowbrook Community Center
 - Noted that pre-registration is required through The Watershed Institute is required by going to <https://ewingnj.org/government/news/2035-protect-our-local-watershed-at-our-annual-stream-cleanup-in-ewing-4>
 - Joanne and Lexy to follow up with TCNJ about coordinating with students as well as possible permission to extend the clean up into areas that are part of TCNJ campus



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- **Health Initiatives**

- 250 Mile Virtual Challenge: Still able to sign up and log miles walked or run by going to <https://runsignup.com/Race/NJ/Ewing/Ewing250Challenge>

- **Trees Initiatives**

- For the 250th Anniversary “Pledge to Plant” we have about 20 pledges so far, with others to be tallied (e.g., Glendale Civic Association’s local initiative)
- Follow up with Devin to be done by Joanne and Lexy regarding the outreach to local businesses regarding the 250 Trees Initiative
- Joanne updated that she was unable to get a hold of a contact at Bountiful Gardens since this came up at an earlier meeting to look into the same discount GCA negotiated
- Planning for the Arbor Day celebration is underway; the event is scheduled for April 25th at 9:00 AM at Watson Park
 - For the annual tree donation, the type of tree breed is still to be determined, but will try to source from Bountiful Gardens (perhaps getting 3 smaller trees rather than 1 larger tree); donations of \$20 per person are appreciated to help cover the cost of the tree
 - Joanne is working on preparing the Arbor Day resolution to go before Council
 - Joanne will also reach out to the West Trenton Garden Club, since last year they had leftover trees for their handout event, which they could bring to this event if needed
- Official notice received for Ewing’s “Tree City USA” application
- Confirmed that our CFMP grant request has been submitted, awaiting approval

- **Native Plants Initiatives**

- Briefly discussed the Lore Elementary native plant garden opportunity and Lexy noted the possibility of a Native Plant Society grant to help with this initiative
- Briefly discussed previous conversations about our current township ordinance regarding native plants and a desire to continue setting the standard for Mercer County on this topic
- Covered the history and logistical challenges of NWF community certification efforts for the township; in the meantime, encouraging local property owners to self-certify individually

- **Restaurant Week Event**

- Event will run from April 25th (the day of our Arbor Day celebration) through May 3rd
- Noted that this is our fifth year and that outreach to local restaurants has already begun; five restaurants signed up during the first week of announcing registration
- This year’s theme is “Red, White and Delicious” with a desire for participating restaurants to promote deals related to “250” or “1776” (e.g., a \$2.50 or \$17.76 pricing)



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- **Shred Day Event**
 - Noted this has been reduced to one event on October 3rd due to previous low turnout
- **Website Update**
 - Discussed a plan to combine the Ewing Recycles website into the Ewing Green Team website as its own dedicated section
 - Efforts are underway to clean up the site to be more mobile-friendly and clean up the navigation to help showcase current/active initiatives while retaining the archives and history of EGT in their own section
 - Anyone interested in helping with social media posts (notably Facebook) is encouraged to do so directly or reach out if you have any questions

NEW BUSINESS

- **Flower Hill / Bull Run Wetlands Development Update**
 - Joanne and Lexy provided some updates and context for newer members, and mentioned ongoing efforts to coordinate with CRAN (Climate Revolution Action Network)
- **Community Forestry Management Plan (CFMP) & Environmental / Natural Resource Inventory (ERI / NRI) Update**
 - No new updates since last meeting; Chuck is continuing to work on the CFMP
- **Master Plan Update**
 - No new updates since last meeting; updates to the Master Plan (including the inclusion of an Open Space plan) is in progress
- **Parks Improvements & Scoping Update**
 - Discussed the Watson Park Updates survey still being open, but closing soon. Survey can be filled out at this link: <https://ewingnj.org/government/news/2033-community-input-sought-for-watson-park-improvements>
 - Discussed the outcomes of the Green Acres area legislation from NJ DEP that happened prior to the March 2026 meeting
- **Other Items Raised During the Meeting**
 - Present attendees raised questions regarding state legislation around the use of gas-powered leaf blowers, both for pollution and noise related reasons
 - Present attendees brought up questions about local “for sale” properties and potential proposals for environmental conservation for wooded and undeveloped areas near streams



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REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE COMMITTEES & COMMISSIONS

- **Council**
 - The assembled attendees discussed briefly the Coffee with the Council events happening each month, and positive interactions with Council members and good attendance by both the Council and the public
- *No other updates this month from outside committees or commissions*

CONCLUSION

- **The team motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:37 PM ET**