



# EWING GREEN TEAM

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



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## MEETING MINUTES

*Wednesday, April 22, 2026*

### ATTENDEES

- Joanne Mallowney, Mark Wetherbee, Karen Sare, Ryan Lelache, Joe Mirabella, Caroline O'Brien, Karen Kissel

### WELCOME & CALL TO ORDER

- **Meeting was called to order at 7:06 PM ET**
- A planned visit from Chuck Latini was delayed due to a separate meeting conflict; the visit will be rescheduled so Chuck can discuss updates regarding the Master Plan revisions for Ewing Township and items regarding Zoning and township ordinances

### ANNOUNCEMENTS & COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Bike Ride Event**
  - Joanne provided an update that tentative agreements are now in place with Washington Crossing Park and Old Barracks in Trenton for the planned event later this year
- **Clean Communities Events**
  - Joanne and Karen Sare provided updates on the previous Saturday's Stream Cleanup event at Hollowbrook Community Center hosted by The Watershed Institute
    - The group noted we had an overall lower turnout than previous events, but we had a number of families who joined and brought along school age children to participate
    - Once the second weekend of The Watershed Institute's event has concluded, we expect to get details on the total weight of garbage and recyclables that were collected
    - The Watershed Institute also handed out native asters and mountain mint plants as part of the event
- **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>
  - As of April, we have several walkers who have already logged 250 or more miles



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- **Trees Initiatives**

- **Pledge to Plant:** So far there have been about 25 submissions on the website, each pledging between 1-3 trees, though it's not clear if other initiatives (see below) have logged on the website
  - **Glendale Civic Association:** Confirmed that about 14-15 trees were delivered and planted in the Glendale neighborhood through an arrangement with Bountiful Gardens
- **Arbor Day Celebration:** Will be held at Watson Park on Saturday the 25<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 AM, with plans to collect \$20 tree donations from anyone who hasn't shared them with Joanne
  - Joanne and DPW were able to secure six trees for \$90 each from Bountiful Gardens, with DPW and EGT each paying for three of them
- **Tree City USA:** Confirmed that we will formally acknowledge at the Arbor Day event the township officially becoming a Tree City USA
  - Joanne noted that, going forward from 2026, the township will have a budget line item for tree expenditures to help with yearly submissions to maintain our Tree City USA status (\$2 per capita spending on tree plantings and maintenance)
- **Business Outreach:** Joanne to follow up with Devin, Sonya, Lexy, and others about next steps to build up more momentum on business outreach

- **Native Plants Initiatives**

- Briefly discussed the Lore Elementary native plant garden opportunity; Karen Kissel met with Jennifer from Lore, and reviewed their current work setting up a green house and a mixture of native plants and vegetables
  - Jennifer was not able to get the grant this year, but conversation circled around ways we can help Jennifer with planning needed for 2026-27 for future grant applications
  - Karen also intends to follow up with Jennifer about potential interest in volunteer support for the garden, either from the EGT or from local student participants
- The team also briefly discussed plans in place for the new community center that recently broke ground and began construction, including the sensory garden with native plantings and the center's green roof, including concerns about ongoing care/maintenance of the roof

- **Restaurant Week Event**

- Reminder that the event will run from April 25<sup>th</sup> through May 3<sup>rd</sup>
- About 12 restaurants are participating this year, about on par with prior years

- **Shred Day Event**

- No new updates; noted again that this has been reduced to one event on October 3<sup>rd</sup> due to previous years' low turnout



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- **Website Update**
  - No new updates
- **Flower Hill / Bull Run Wetlands Development Update**
  - No new updates

## NEW BUSINESS

- **Community Forestry Management Plan (CFMP) & Environmental / Natural Resource Inventory (ERI / NRI) Update**
  - Our CFMP application is still in process as of the time of our meeting, and the team discussed concerns about timing since the CFMP is meant to be delivered in February 2027, and to comply we still need to hire a forester and begin work on our inventory
    - **Update:** At the Arbor Day event, Joanne confirmed that we had received confirmation that our grant application was approved; next steps to be discussed at a future meeting
  - Chuck is still working on the ERI/NRI for the Master Plan, will provide an update when he visits for a future meeting with EGT as noted earlier in the meeting
- **Parks Improvements & Scoping Update**
  - No new updates
- **Other Items Raised During the Meeting**
  - The team briefly revisited questions about tree ordinances discussed earlier in the meeting for the upcoming visit from Chuck Latini, namely questions about discouraging removal of trees (especially larger / old growth trees) for both businesses and private residences

## REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE COMMITTEES & COMMISSIONS

- **Council**
  - No new updates
- **Ewing Environmental Commission (EEC)**
  - Update from Joe that the team has drafted supermarket signage for Shop Rite and Marrazzo's market about remembering to bring reusable bags

## CONCLUSION

- **The team motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 PM ET**