



EWING GREEN TEAM

Promoting People, the Planet, and Prosperity in Ewing



MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, June 24, 2026

ATTENDEES

- Joanne Mallowney, Mark Wetherbee, Joe Mirabella, Hannah Lee, Ryan Lelache, Lexy Freiling, Heidi Furman, Devin Spence, Karen Kissel

WELCOME & CALL TO ORDER

- **Meeting was called to order at 7:03 PM ET**
- Minutes were approved for May 2026

ACTIVE INITIATIVES WITH ACTION ITEMS

- **Trees Initiatives / Business Outreach:**
 - Joanne confirmed we have approximately 100 pledged tree plantings reported as of June
 - Link to Pledge Form: <https://www.cognitoforms.com/EwingTownship1/PledgeToPlant>
 - Township will be planting 14 new trees at Roosevelt Park on June 28th (not yet counted)
 - Last meeting, Chuck Latini mentioned that he will work to report trees planted as part of property development in 2026 (not yet counted)
 - Need to align on next steps for business outreach planning; Township has agreed to cover 100 mailings to local businesses, but needs a list of businesses from the Green Team
 - Joanne to work on planning a follow up Tree Committee meeting in the next month
 - Joanne has started some direct outreach to local banks, restaurants, and churches
 - Kathleen Barringer (former Green Team member) has been connected to a potential opportunity for a tree planting and care plan with Our Lady of Good Counsel, as well as plans for a memorial tree planting at Banchoff Park



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- **Community Forestry Management Plan (CFMP):**
 - Confirmed that the CFMP resolution brought up at the last Green Team meeting passed at Township Council this week, and a contract will now go out to bid to support this effort
 - Green Team volunteer hours are required for the full grant to be issued; plans for these hours will be discussed at a later meeting (likely in September)
- **National Night Out & Community Fest:**
 - Planning to participate in NNO on Tuesday, August 4th and Community Fest on Saturday, September 19th and use the opportunity to promote our 250 Trees and bike ride events
 - Per Joanne, no invites have been sent out yet for tabling at the Community Fest event
- **Ewing Township Council & Ordinances:**
 - Noted that there are no updates from what was discussed with Chuck at May's meeting
 - No reports from in-person attendance at last Council meeting, and minutes have not yet been posted for May or June's Council meetings
 - Discussed recently passed NJ State level freezes on tax incentives that had applied to building of new data centers, with statewide push for a moratorium on data center buildout
 - The team also discussed potential of statewide enforcement of clean energy requirements and recycling of gray water to reduce local energy grid and drinking water demands, as well as ordinances enforcing light, noise, and ground water pollution limitations
- **Website Updates:** Ryan Lelache and Lexy Freiling will be meeting this week to begin work on a full audit of the Green Team website to help organize content into active initiatives and archives of historical Green Team initiatives and events
- **Native Plants Initiatives / Lore Elementary:** Per Karen, no further updates since we last met. We anticipate connecting against with Jennifer Hoh in the late summer / fall as the school year resumes. Hannah expressed tentative interest in supporting these efforts when they resume.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Bike Ride Event:** Confirmed the event will be held on Saturday, September 26th (one week after Community Fest) and that advertising efforts for the event are underway
 - Details are currently posted on the website at <https://ewinggreenteam.org/ewingfallspin>
- **Clean Communities Events:**
 - No new updates for June 2026.
- **Health Initiatives:**
 - No new updates for June 2026.



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- **Native Plants Initiatives:**
 - See updates listed under *Active Initiatives with Action Items*
- **Shred Day Event:**
 - Confirmed the next event will take place in October.
- **Flower Hill / Bull Run Wetlands Development Update**
 - Per a brief update from Devin, further discussions are awaiting a planned DEP assessment, though no timing has been communicated on when this is occurring
 - There are plans to re-engage later this Summer with continued support from CRAN

REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE COMMITTEES & COMMISSIONS

- **Community Forestry Management Plan (CFMP):**
 - See updates listed under *Active Initiatives with Action Items*
- **Master Plan & Environmental / Natural Resource Inventory (ERI / NRI):**
- **Parks Improvements & Scoping:**
- **Ewing Township Council:**
 - See updates listed under *Active Initiatives with Action Items*
- **Ewing Environmental Commission (EEC):**
- **Ewing Township Redevelopment Agency (ETRA):**
 - Discussion indicated that the ETRA event listed on the Township calendar still lists meetings as being in-person, though they have been done via Zoom since around 2020-21
 - Joe to follow up with Chuck Latini on getting an update on the Zoom meeting link to share out for wider attendance, as well as about the previously-discussed data center ordinances

(For all sections above, there were no new updates for June 2026 except where noted.)

NEW BUSINESS

- Multiple team members will be out of town for the next Green Team meeting on July 22nd
 - Lexy Freiling (Co-Vice President) will host the next meeting in-person and via Zoom, since that is our last chance to meet before the National Night Out event in August and gives us more time to plan for Community Fest (since Green Team does not meet in August)



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- Karen Kissel mentioned an event called Botany of Nations happening at the Academy of Natural Sciences at Drexel University in Philadelphia, PA
 - Confirmed the event is running now through February 2027; the Green Team discussed planning a coordinated trip to visit the event, to be discussed at an upcoming meeting
- Hannah Lee brought up a previous discussion related to the property at 1200 Silvia Street, an approximately 2.5 acre wooded area for sale nearby the WaWa on Parkway Avenue
 - Per Hannah, Chuck Latini had mentioned that the Township has made previous attempts to purchase the lot, though details about the outcome of that effort were unclear at our meeting
 - Green Team recommended to Hannah to bring this to the next Planning Board meeting for an update by signing up for time to speak and ask questions in advance

CONCLUSION

- **The team motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 PM ET**