



EWING GREEN TEAM

Promoting People, the Planet, and Prosperity in Ewing



MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, September 23, 2026

ATTENDEES

- Joanne Mallowney, Ryan Lelache, Joe Mirabella, Mark Wetherbee, Lexy Freiling, Karen Sare, Kevin Baxter, Caroline O'Brien, Sonya Travis, Karen Kissel

WELCOME & CALL TO ORDER

- **Meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM ET** and was conducted in-person
- June and July's meeting minutes were approved by the assembled attendees

ACTIVE INITIATIVES WITH ACTION ITEMS

- **Community Fest:**
 - Volunteers noted there was an overall good participation during the event at the EGT table, with great weather throughout the morning and into early afternoon
 - Assembled attendees observed the raffle drawing for the Environmental IQ quiz; the winner of a copy of Doug Tallamy's book "How Can I Help" was Kylee Karmaov
- **Bike Ride:**
 - Scheduled for this Saturday, September 26th though the team noted the possible nor'easter coming in Friday evening may disrupt plans
 - If weather is not an issue, the event will have an 8:15 AM check-in time at Washington Crossing Park in the parking lot by the old Visitor Center
 - As of the last check-in, about 30 riders were registered, though based on previous years' events, we anticipate more last minute and day-of registrations
 - If the event is cancelled due to heavy rain or winds, discussions will be held about a possible rescheduling
- **Shred Day:**
 - Scheduled for next Saturday, October 3rd from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM
 - Joanne shared a need for volunteers; during the meeting, Joanne, Joe, and Lexy offered to take a shift; one more shift volunteer will be sought out after the meeting



EWING GREEN TEAM

Promoting People, the Planet, and Prosperity in Ewing



- **Trees Initiatives / Business Outreach:**

- Joanne mentioned she's been emailing local businesses throughout the summer and has received a few responses, but a follow up plan is needed
- Chuck Latini mentioned in May's meeting that he would assemble the total trees planted as part of new development in the township
 - Joanne to reach out to Chuck for an updated estimate to help with planning for our total and direct our next steps
- Noted a need to schedule a follow up meeting to plan business outreach; an in-person meeting was set for Wednesday, September 30th at 6:00 PM

- **Community Forestry Management Plan (CFMP):**

- Things are moving forward slowly, with Bill Brash having been identified as our township's forester for the updated CFMP (has previous experience in Ewing)
- We are currently awaiting DEP's letter certifying our grant, which (once received) will be submitted to Township Council for approval
- Once approved, Bill will help with planning our tree inventory for Ewing Township and preparing the CFMP, which will feed into / be part of the updated Master Plan
- Reminder that once CFMP efforts are underway, previously-identified team members will need to complete required volunteer hours to help retain the grant

- **Website Updates:**

- Lexy completed an initial audit of our EGT website; she and Ryan are reviewing this and will use this to inform website next steps, which are:
 - Content & Page Reorganization
 - Site Template & Layout Redesign
 - Content Revisions (for out-of-date pages)
- Ryan and Lexy will plan to reconvene in October and provide an update at our next scheduled EGT meeting on progress and next steps

- **Ewing Township Council / Ordinances:**

- Kevin Baxter was in attendance and reported on recent Council activities, notably that the last meeting on September 22nd was the first reading of the data center ordinance that EGT shared with Kevin after July's meeting
 - Next step will be for it to go in front of the Planning Board on October 1st, after which it will be sent back to Council for its second reading
 - Those in attendance at the last Council meeting noted there was a good showing in support of the ordinance and a few dissenting voices
- Joanne and Joe followed up about questions regarding a light pollution and gas-powered leaf blower ordinance (respectively) they'd previously mentioned



EWING GREEN TEAM

Promoting People, the Planet, and Prosperity in Ewing



- In both cases, Kevin suggested sharing proposals directly with the Council President, and that no new feedback on either had been noted recently

ANNOUNCEMENTS & COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Bike Ride Event**
- **Clean Communities Events**
- **Health Initiatives**
- **Native Plants Initiatives**
- **Shred Day Event**
- **Flower Hill / Bull Run Wetlands Development Update**

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

REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE COMMITTEES & COMMISSIONS

- **Community Forestry Management Plan (CFMP)**
- **Master Plan & Environmental / Natural Resource Inventory (ERI / NRI)**
- **Parks Improvements & Scoping**
- **Ewing Township Council:**
- **Ewing Environmental Commission (EEC)**
- **Ewing Township Redevelopment Agency (ETRA)**

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

NEW BUSINESS

- Brief discussion was held about adding a "Leave the Leaves" notice into the Ewing Insights newsletter alongside recent announcements being made about leaf collection (to encourage raking leaves into garden beds as mulch and/or mulching leaves as compost)

CONCLUSION

- **The team motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:16 PM ET**