



EWING TOWNSHIP NJ

MAYOR

Bert Steinmann

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Kevin Baxter

Jennifer Keyes-Maloney

David Schroth

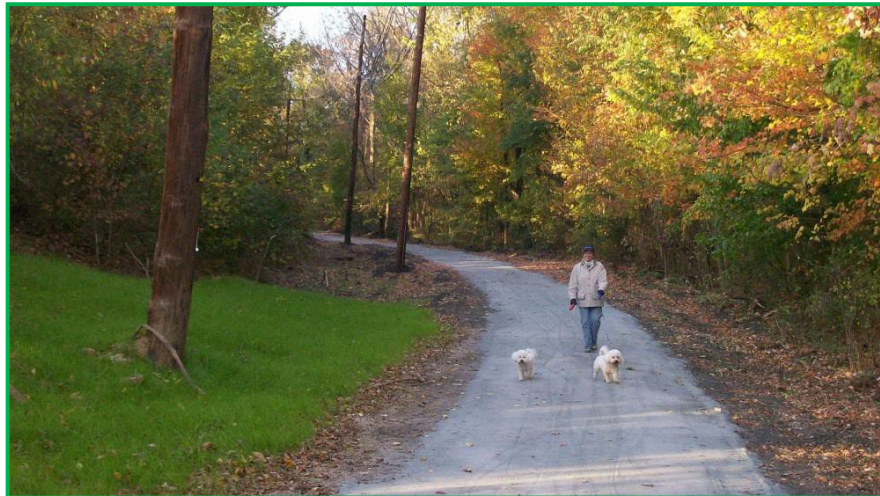
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JOHNSON TROLLEY TRAIL

Respectfully submitted by members of the commission: Joe Mirabella, Chair; Evan Crumiller, Vice Chair; Dan Burke, Joanne Mullowney, Charles Maack, Rodney Jenkins and Robert Kirby

2021 ANNUAL REPORT

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EWING ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

2021 ANNUAL R E P O R T

Introduction

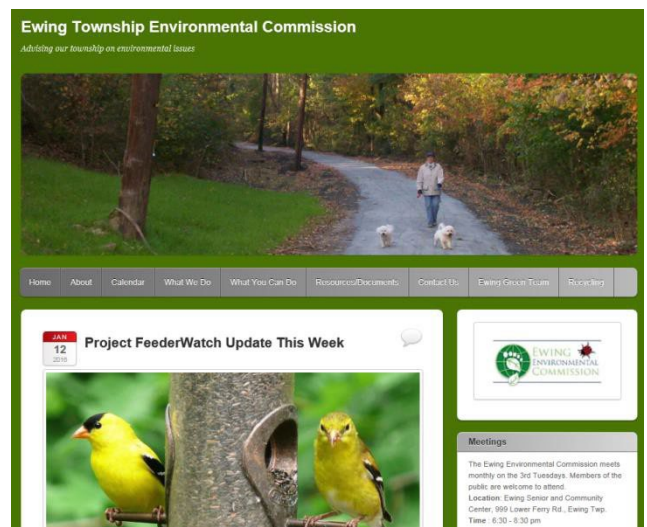
2021 was a very different and strange year for the Ewing Environmental Commission, just as it was for Ewing Township and indeed the world. We were forced to meet almost entirely via Zoom, which unfortunately limited our communication and ability to interact in real time. However, despite those limitations, we were able to make real progress in our continuing effort to make Ewing Township ever more sustainable and environmentally friendly.

To add to the already enormous struggles created by the Coronavirus, we also lost some extremely valuable members to retirement. Lee and Ann Farnham have retired from the Environmental Commission, and their many contributions will be dearly missed. Lee remains to this day a member of the ANJEC (New Jersey Association of Environmental Commissions) Board, described further below, and Ann Farnham volunteered an enormous amount of time and attention reviewing potential building projects for their environmental impact on Ewing. This work has since been taken over by Dan Burke, a professional landscape architect on the Environmental Commission.

Fortunately, we have also had new additions to the Environmental Commission. Robert Kirby joined us via the recommendation of Councilwoman Jennifer Keyes-Maloney, and Rodney Jenkins via the recommendation of Councilman Kevin Baxter.

EEC WEBSITE

Environmental Commission Member Joanne Mallowney has brought an incredible knowledge of information technology to the Environmental Commission (not to mention her work as Chair of the Ewing Green Team, covered further down.) As such, she has created and maintained the Ewing Environmental Commission Website, found at ewingec.org. This website is a point of pride for the commission, as it is not only beautifully designed, it is easily navigated and provides vital information to Ewing residents. Residents can not only stay updated on events with the calendar, but can learn how to compost, keep their lawn both looking fresh and environmentally healthy, and prevent excess flooding and pollution in our water by creating rain gardens or installing rain barrels.



ELECTRIC CAR PROMOTION

This year, under the leadership of Chair Joe Mirabella, the Ewing Environmental Commission concentrated on promoting electric cars within the Township, specifically the introduction of electric cars into the Township's fleet and charging stations at Township properties.

After much research, meetings with the Mayor and Township Administrator, and negotiations within the Council, this year, the Mayor and Council's final budget has included the money for Ewing Township's first two electric cars as well as four electric charging stations to be placed around town! We are beyond thrilled with this result.

All of our partners deserve credit for this achievement, but we would like to note that Councilwoman Jennifer Keyes-Maloney, the Environmental Commission's liaison, was particularly instrumental in this effort, as well as many of the successes of the Environmental Commission and Green Team. Her dedication and help have gone WELL above what is expected of an elected official, and she deserves special recognition for her outstanding efforts.

CLEAN-UPS AROUND EWING TOWNSHIP

Despite the Coronavirus foiling many of our plans, with the help of the Watershed Institute, the Ewing Green Team, and the general public, members of the Environmental Commission were still able to actively volunteer and help beautify our community by taking part in clean-ups around Ewing Township. Clean-ups along the Delaware River, at Moody Park, and the stream behind the Hollowbrook Community Center allowed for the removal of an incredible amount of trash (which Ewing Township was extremely helpful in transporting) and left our members feeling exhausted but accomplished! The ability to socially distance was crucial in our ability to take part in these clean-ups, even as so many plans had to be put on hold due to the Coronavirus.

ANJEC (NEW JERSEY ASSOCIATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSIONS)

ANJEC remains a fundamental force for the environmental mission in New Jersey. Among the many opportunities provided by ANJEC, some include training for commissioners (seminars and webinars), Capitol Day in Trenton (where legislators talk about environmental issues), and an annual meeting to listen to leading speakers and morning and afternoon break-out sessions on issues critical to environmental commissions including, storm water regulations, DEP initiatives, and how to be a more effective local force. ANJEC's research center is an excellent resource for us as it has sample ordinances as well as the latest information on how environmental commissions around the state are addressing issues of most concern such as open space, changes at DEP, hazard planning for catastrophic weather events and many others. Our membership in ANJEC allows us to go to any of their workshops at no charge.

GREEN TEAM

As mentioned, Environmental Commission member Joanne Mallowney is also the Chair of the Ewing Green Team. Without her energy, selflessness, and leadership, the Green Team would be a very different organization. Other Environmental Commission members also in the Ewing Green Team include Evan Crumiller and Joe Mirabella.



Although, like the Environmental Commission, the Green Team has been severely hampered by the Coronavirus pandemic, their members have still been able to produce impressive results and move Ewing Township further towards sustainability.

Some of their most notable recent projects have included the "Love it or Leave It" campaign, a program to teach residents how to successfully use leaves as mulch in their gardens and lawns in response to new stormwater runoff regulations, "Bag Up Ewing," a program to educate store-owners and residents on the upcoming plastic bag and plastic straw bans, the annual Scarecrow Contest in conjunction with the Arts Commission, and the "Ewing Fall Spin," an annual bike ride to promote healthy living and visiting the sights of Ewing.

CONCLUSION

Although the Coronavirus has affected the operations of the Environmental Commission, we were able to adapt and react to the changing conditions to continue our mission of making Ewing Township more sustainable and environmentally friendly. We look forward to continuing that mission for many years to come.