

# **JAMESBURG GREEN TEAM**

**August Meeting**

**Minutes**

**August 8th, 2018**

**7:00 PM**

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**CALL TO ORDER:** This meeting was called to order by Council President Daria Ludas, who introduced Mayor Marlene Lowande to welcome the attendees to the first Jamesburg Green Team meeting.

## **ATTENDANCE:**

Marlene Lowande - *Mayor*  
Daria Ludas - *Council President*  
Samantha Rampacek - *Council*  
Colleen Rutsky - *Council*  
Scott Frueh - *Business Administrator*  
Bill Maresca - *Borough Inspector*  
Elliot Stroul - *School Board President*  
Paul Rutsky - *School Board*  
Peter Godfrey - *Jamesburg Library*  
Thomas Emens - *Community Support*  
John Rutsky - *Community Support*  
Matt Monzing - *Community Support*  
Courtney Klecha - *Community Support*

## **WELCOME**

Mayor Marlene Lowande

- A. Mayor Lowande began by thanking everyone for attending the meeting.
- B. She acknowledged Council President Ludas for her ongoing work with Jamesburg's environment, especially with the creeks. She thanked her for all that she has done over the years.
- C. Mayor Lowande thinks that it is very important to be worried about the Earth.
- D. She thanked everyone for coming out to the meeting tonight.

## **GREEN TEAM OVERVIEW**

Council President Daria Ludas

- A. Council President Ludas explained that this meeting and other future meetings are part of the Jamesburg Green Team's community outreach. The meetings are meant to educate the public about previous projects and plans for the future.
- B. Sustainable Jersey gives financial incentives and offers programs to communities in order to help them become more sustainable and eco-friendly. Council President Ludas explained that Jamesburg has been a participant.

- C. Over 400 municipalities in New Jersey have green teams, which are a mandatory part of the Sustainable Jersey program.
- D. Council President Ludas shared how it takes a village to keep the community clean and that green teams are a big help.
- E. There will be a green section at the fall festival this year.
- F. Council President Ludas shared information about local mosquitoes. The Asian tiger mosquito is the most prevalent in New Jersey. It is one of the most aggressive and bites all day. The female bites because it needs the blood to lay eggs. Bottles, flower pots, plates, bottle caps, tires, and garbage can lids are all mosquito breeders.
- G. Paul Rutsky asked if Jamesburg as a town sprays for mosquitoes. Council President Ludas responded by saying that the county handles the spraying and has recently done so in Jamesburg. They have traps placed around, which are sent to the state for analysis. There is no trace of the West Nile virus or the zika virus as of this morning's report from mosquito control.
- H. Councilwoman Samantha Rampacek shared that if you call the Middlesex County Mosquito Commission, they are very helpful. She says that they will conduct a survey of your property for no charge.
- I. Council President Ludas shared that the Manalapan Brook has been cleaned up twice. Debris have been removed. The DPW has been of great assistance.
- J. Two years ago, the Jamesburg Garden Club started for residents of Jamesburg, Helmetta and Spotswood.
- K. Council President Ludas also shared that an herb garden will soon be installed at the Lakeview Mansion. Troop 54 will donate the wood and local farms will donate the herbs. They need to be period herbs in order to be planted there. The beds will be put in place this fall.
- L. Spotswood is getting a multimillion dollar grant from the EPA to dredge DeVoe Lake, which will also help us.
- M. Council President Ludas thanked everyone for coming out.

## **GRANTS / SUSTAINABLE JERSEY**

Business Administrator Scott Frueh

- A. Administrator Frueh explained how Sustainable Jersey and the grants work.
- B. As Council President Ludas explained, Sustainable Jersey gives financial incentives to communities. The program will give a municipality a grant for green projects if certain criteria is met.
- C. Sustainable Jersey evaluates a municipality through a points system.
- D. If a municipality is below 150 points, they are only eligible to receive a \$2,000 grant. Jamesburg has done that already.

- E. Once a municipality reaches 150 points, they are at the “bronze level” and are eligible to receive a \$10,000 to \$20,000 grant. Jamesburg is working towards that.
- F. With a \$2,000 grant, a municipality has to have the money spent in one year. With a \$10,000 grant, a municipality has to have the money spent in a year and a half.
- G. Administrator Frueh explained that our points are due by September 9th of this year and that he is working to get all of the information to Sustainable Jersey to validate Jamesburg’s points.
- H. Meetings, activities and green initiatives help you get more points and more grant money.
- I. School Board President Elliot Stroul shared that the Board of Education is doing Sustainable Jersey in the Jamesburg schools and asked if there could be a crossover with what the borough is doing.
- J. Administrator Frueh said that it is possible and that Sustainable Jersey encourages schools and municipalities to collaborate.
- K. Council President Ludas agreed that crossover is important to achieving the necessary points that Jamesburg needs.
- L. Paul Rutsky explained that the Borough and the schools have taken power saving initiatives with lights in the buildings. Mr. Rutsky also shared that there is a garden at John F. Kennedy Elementary School and ongoing projects at Grace M. Breckwedel Middle School. He would love to see a collaboration.
- M. Administrator Frueh shared that of the 400 municipalities that have Sustainable Jersey, roughly 300 or more schools also have the program.
- N. The energy audit that the Borough had also counts towards the points.
- O. Administrator Frueh is hoping to have LED lights throughout the Borough.

### **JUNIOR GREEN TEAM**

Councilwoman Colleen Rutsky and John Rutsky

- A. Councilwoman Rutsky explained that there’s been a lot of “kid power” at the recent clean ups.
- B. Troop 54 has been a major force and they would like to do more work with the Jamesburg Green Team soon.
- C. The Immaculate Conception student council has also helped out in the past.
- D. Councilwoman Rutsky explained that students can earn community service hours through their participation.
- E. Students came out in numbers and worked hard to remove debris from the nature trails and from the Manalapan Brook.

- F. John Rutsky spoke about his experiences with the Jamesburg Green Team. Mr. Rutsky said that he has a lot of fun and thinks that his time with the Jamesburg Green Team was a great experience. He has met new people while volunteering and thinks that it is a great program.
- G. Council President Ludas recognized Matt Monzing for his work at the most recent cleanup. She thanked him for his tremendous help.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL OVERVIEW / INITIATIVES**

Mr. Thomas Emens

- A. Paul Rutsky asked Mr. Emens about the green team at Monroe Township High School.
- B. Mr. Emens said that there is an environmental action club at the high school, but there are challenges since members and advisors have other priorities. It is a problem facing all environmental action clubs. Environmental action clubs have been on the rise in recent years and potential is always there. Many student members join to put it on their college resumes, not to make a difference.
- C. Mr. Emens thanked the members of the Jamesburg Green Team for all of their work, and their efforts to build a greener community. He also thanked Council President Ludas for her ongoing work and dedication to green initiatives in the community.
- D. The Jamesburg Green Team has participated in two creek clean ups, the formation of nature trails along East Church Street, and has helped lay down new mulch in Knights of Columbus Park.
- E. The Jamesburg Green Team participates in the Jamesburg Fall Festival and the Monroe Township Green Fair.
- F. Mr. Emens showed the attendees the cover of the new “Green Guide” handout. The Green Guide will be printed on recycled paper and will contain information about conservation and sustainability. It will also highlight the Jamesburg Green Team’s previous projects.
- G. Councilwoman Rampacek suggested that the Green Guides could be placed at the library and around town, in addition to both of the functions.

## **QUESTIONS / PUBLIC COMMENT**

- A. Mayor Marlene Lowande & Councilwoman Rampacek - Facebook will be a very useful tool to give updates to the public and to recruit members.
- B. Paul Rutsky - Updates or blurbs should be sent every week or at least once a month to keep the public interested.
- C. Thomas Emens - We will use the email list from tonight to keep in touch with everyone. Updates will be given when there are upcoming events or new projects.
- D. Courtney Klecha - What are some of the other projects that the Jamesburg Green Team has worked on? I would be interested in helping.

- E. Peter Godfrey - We should construct the sidewalks and parking lots differently in the future to prevent flooding. I am concerned about the paint cans at the recycling center. They are collecting water and might be a mosquito hazard.

**MEETING ADJOURNED**