



**Sustainable Ringwood/Green Team
End of Year Report
2022
By
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Chairperson**

Sustainable Ringwood’s Green Team ended 2022 with one vacant seat and a number of members whose terms were expiring. The team, which has positions for 7 voting members and 3 alternate members, includes members representing the Borough Council, the Health Department, the Environmental Commission (vacant as of December 2022), the Non-Profit New Weis Center and local businesses. The work of the Green Team demonstrate that its activities are in line with interests and goals of a variety of businesses, local organizations, municipal commissions and departments.

The Green Team met 10 times during 2022, and minutes were posted for each meeting. The team was extremely active throughout the year, and members volunteered to participate in a variety of events. The team drafted and approved vision and mission statements as well as objectives that were consistent with the ordinance that created the Green Team. The vision statement, mission statement and objectives are now posted on the Green Team webpage of the Borough Website.

Found Art Retrospective Exhibit

In 2021, the Green Team, in collaboration with the Ringwood Manor Association of the Arts, organized The Found Art



Project that featured an art installation by Kate Dodd. In addition, we had a workshop and juried art exhibit at Ringwood Manor. The project highlighted the damage caused by plastic and the need to reuse, recycle and reduce waste. Early in 2022, the Green Team curated an exhibit (The Found Art Retrospective Exhibit) at the Ringwood Public Library based on this project. This exhibit included pictures of Kate Dodd's installation, 22 submissions from the juried exhibit and a decoration that was created by the participants of the workshop. The Found Art Retrospective Exhibit was on display in the library from March 16, 2022 to April 16, 2022. The exhibit attracted considerable interest from library patrons and was well received. The 6 large photos of the Kate Dodd installation were donated to the library after the exhibit and continue to be on display.

Earth Day, Caring for Ringwood Day and Clean-up of Ringwood Brook in Ringwood Manor

Four members of the Green Team participated in the celebration of Earth Day at the New Weis center, Sunday, April 24, 2022. The Green Team's reusable bag decorating activity for children was extremely successful and well attended. Strawberry plants from the community garden were given to parents of the children and were well received. The team also offered a seed planting activity as part of the Native Plant project. Posters publicizing various Green Team projects were on display.

Four members of the Green Team also participated in Caring for Ringwood Day on Saturday, April 30, 2022 and one



member participated in the cleanup of Ringwood Brook in Ringwood Manor on Saturday, March 19, 2022. This clean up was sponsored by the AmeriCorps NJ Watershed Ambassador Program.

BagUp NJ Campaign

The statewide single-use ban on plastic bags went into effect in May 2022. The Green Team assisted in preparing the community for the ban by ordering posters with information about the ban and distributing them to local merchants and the library. Seven posters were distributed to Stop & Shop and four to CVS. One poster was given to the liquor store adjacent to Stop & Shop and one was given to Keller Williams and another to the Paint Store in the Fieldstone Plaza. The store managers were grateful to be given highly visible information that they could share with their patrons. One poster was also placed in a visible area of the library.

Native Plant Project

In May 2022, the Green Team initiated the Native Plant Project that will encompass a number of activities and events and will extend over the next few years. The Project began with a presentation on May 14, 2022 at the Ringwood Public Library by Tina Yi, owner of Blue Cabin Gardens. The presentation, which was entitled "Native Plants and Ecologically Friendly Garden Practices", was also recorded and published on the YouTube channel of the library where it remains for continued viewing. The event was attended by 32 people and well received. The Green Team also purchased



twenty native plant seed packets that were distributed to the participants. Some of the seeds were planted, so that seedlings could be distributed at other events. Posters with information about native plants were created and displayed at the presentation. These posters will be on display at future events as well. Finally, a series of posts highlighting native plants adapted to our area was published on the Sustainable Ringwood/Green Team Facebook page.

Sustainable Jersey Newsletter Highlights Ringwood's Lake Management Program and the Green Teams Activities

The Spring 2022 issue of Sustainable Jersey's Newsletter included an article about Ringwood's lake management program and the Green Team's activities. The article listed Ringwood as one of five success stories. It applauded the \$90,000 grant that was obtained to hire Princeton Hydro to assess and recommend actions to preserve the health of the lakes. It also applauded the digital brochure developed by the Green Team entitled "What Homeowners Can Do to Maintain Healthy Lakes". The brochure which was originally published in 2020 included suggestions similar to those mentioned in the 2021 Princeton Hydro report and the current educational flyer "Maintaining Healthy Lakes: A Shore Thing". The Green Team's digital brochure continues to be available on the webpage of the Environmental Commission of the Borough Website. Facebook posts based on the Green Team's digital brochure were published in 2020, 2021 and again in 2022 on the Sustainable Ringwood/Green Team Facebook page. A



16X24 inch poster also based on the information and images in the digital brochure was on display at all events.

Backyard Composting Project

In 2020, the Green Team started a program to educate residents on the nature and benefits of backyard composting and the steps involved in composting. The program continued on July 23, 2022, with a presentation and a giveaway at the Ringwood Public Library. Sixteen people attended the event, and two were randomly selected to receive either an outdoor compost bin or a stainless steel kitchen bin along with the book "Let it Rot". The event was well received.

Pollinator Garden Project

The Green Team recognizes the need to support pollinators by promoting gardens that supply food, shelter and a place to rest. The team initiated an educational program that involved installing a demonstration pollinator garden that will serve as a site to educate the public on the need to support pollinators and the pollinator-attracting plants that thrive in our area.. Tina Yi, a member of the Green Team (who became a member of the Green Team after her library presentation discussed above) designed the garden and selected the plants. The Borough of Ringwood assisted in selecting an appropriate site. preparing the site for planting, purchasing the plants and providing mulch. On September 17, 2022, members of the Green Team along with Ringwood residents planted the garden located adjacent to the Ringwood Public



Library. The Green Team is grateful for the help and support that it received from the Borough of Ringwood. We are also grateful to the Ringwood Public Library for their support of the Pollinator Garden Project.

Collection of Non-Working Christmas Lights

In December 2022, the Green Team collaborated with the Ringwood Public Library to collect non-working Christmas lights that can be recycled and would earn money for the library. Both the library and the Green Team publicized the collection. The community was responsive, and the collection was a success.

Grant Proposal to be Submitted to Sustainable Jersey in February 2023

In October, November and December of 2022, the Green Team worked on a grant proposal to be submitted to Sustainable Jersey in February, 2023. The proposal requested \$10,000 to support our Backyard Composting educational program and our Pollinator and Native Plant Garden projects. A large portion of the budget was allocated to purchasing plants for the proposed native plant garden.

Conclusion

Part of Green Team's mission is to increase the sustainability of our community by educating residents on practices that will reduce waste, cut greenhouse gas emissions and protect the environment. We have several long-term, educational



projects that are directly linked to our mission. These include Promoting Health Lakes, Backyard Composting, as well as our Native Plant and Pollinator Garden projects. We have published three videos “Backyard Composting by Dr. Jennifer Hsu” published in 2020, “Environmentally Friendly Lawn and Garden Care” by Dr. Hlubik published in 2021 and “Native Plants and Ecologically Friendly Garden Practices” by Tina Yi published in 2022. The videos continue to be available for viewing on the YouTube channel of the Ringwood Public Library. The Green Team has published a series of Facebook Posts that provide information on promoting a healthy environment. The posts included a series on “What Homeowners can do to Maintain Healthy Lakes”, “Native Plants” and “Preparing for the Ban on Single Use Plastic Bags”. Our mission includes collaborating with community and municipal groups as well as connecting with the arts and creative sector. The Green Team worked with the Ringwood Manor Association of the Arts in our Found Art Project. We collaborated with the Library in staging the art exhibit, offering presentations and collecting non-working Christmas tree lights. Finally, we worked closely with the Borough to plan and install our Pollinator Garden. The Green Team is a community resource that works with multiple groups to realize our vision of supporting actions and policies that will ensure sustainability and resilience.



Green Team Mission and Vision Statements

April 7, 2022

Approved

Vision

The Green Team will establish ecologically sustainable practices in Ringwood by leading and/or supporting community efforts to reduce waste, cut green house gas emissions and protect the environment. By supporting actions and policies that preserve the natural beauty and historical character of the community, the Green Team will ensure that future generations enjoy a stronger, healthier and greener Ringwood. We are committed to the principle that conserving today will preserve tomorrow.

Mission

To increase sustainability by engaging in educational campaigns, collaborating with community and municipal groups to implement sound environmental initiatives, connecting with the arts and the creative sector and functioning in an advisory role to the council and other municipal entities.

Objectives

1. **Develop** awareness of sustainable, affordable practices through educational campaigns that include but are not limited to disseminating information, soliciting commitments, conducting giveaways, and organizing events for the community.
2. Collaborate with residents, schools, businesses, non-profits and our municipal government in the implementation of ecologically sound initiatives that will reduce waste, cut greenhouse gas emissions, and protect the environment.



3. Connect the arts and creative sector with initiatives to protect the environment.
4. Act as an advisory committee to the Borough of Ringwood specifically to:
 - Manage the Borough of Ringwood’s participation in the “Sustainable Jersey” program.
 - Encourage the Borough of Ringwood staff to pursue sustainable practices where possible and implement the governing body’s environmental goals.
 - Coordinate input and provide information for the Green Team section of the Borough of Ringwood website and the Sustainable Ringwood Facebook page.
 - Identify initiatives for obtaining grants to support research and environmentally sustainable actions by the municipal government.
 - Provide advice and suggestions to the boards, commissions and committees of the municipal government to ensure that environmental issues are considered in their deliberations.