



**City of South Amboy Green Team  
Meeting Summary**

18 AUGUST 2022 | 6 PM  
ZOOM (virtual)

- Members:**
- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jay Elliot      | <input type="checkbox"/> Anthony Conrad  | <input type="checkbox"/> Gerry Gessie                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mickey Gross               | <input type="checkbox"/> Fred Henry      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jessica Maliszewski |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brandon Russell | <input type="checkbox"/> Glen Skarzynski | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Christopher Smiga   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mary Szaro      |  |   |

- Agenda Topics:**
- 1) **Project status review**
- ✓ 6 of 8 categories
  - ✓ 2 priority actions
  - Total points 115+
  - Need to identify additional actions to ensure 150 pts for certification (*Anthony & Gerry - projects pending*)

| Identify project leads for individual certifications actions and completion of documentary evidence | LEAD    |
|---|---------|
| Action - 1 Community Garden   Points: 10-20 ♥   | Brandon |
| Action - 2 Wildlife Interaction Plan   Points: 10   | Brandon |
| Action - 3 Brownfields Inventory & Prioritization   Points: 10-15 ♥                                 | Jessica |
| Action - 4 Hold a Green Fair   Points: 10   | Jessica |
| Action - 5 Innovative Community Project/PEG   Points: 10-30 ♥*                                      | Mary    |
| Action - 6 Community Visioning   Points: 10   | Mary    |
| Action - 7 Community Education & Outreach   Points: 5-20  | Mary    |
| Action - 8 Improve Public Engagement in Planning and Zoning   Points: 10-15 ♥                       | Mary    |
| Action - 9 Historic Preservation   Points: 10   | Mary    |
| Action - 10 Diversity on Boards & Commissions*  | Mary    |
| Action - 11 Prescription Drug Safety and Disposal*  | Jay     |
| Action - 12 Removing Lead in Drinking Water   Points: 10-40 ♥*                                      | Chris   |
| Action - 13   Points:   |         |
| Action - 14   Points:   |         |
| Action - 15   Points:   |         |

- 2) **Accomplishments since last meeting/Project lead updates**
- ✓ Green Team page added to COSA website with volunteer form <https://www.southamboynj.gov/pages/green-team>
  - ✓ Confirmation - SA Senior Center for Green Fair March 4, 2023.
  - ✓ Individual action updates by project leads...

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| <p><b>Community Garden</b><br/>(Brandon)</p>   | <p>Met with YMCA Facilities Supervisor and DPW to stake out area for community garden and plan prep work. Raised garden bed strategy with a weed barrier suggested with possibly 6-8 beds depending on the size and shape. Plan to use recycled materials.</p> <p>Next steps include recruiting local gardeners to offer time and expertise, setting up a financing strategy for lumber, seeds, soil, etc., and developing a subcommittee to manage the garden.</p> |
| <p><b>Wildlife Interaction Plan</b><br/>(Brandon)</p>                                  | <p>In progress</p>  |
| <p><b>Brownfields Inventory &amp; Prioritization</b><br/>(Jessica)</p>                 | <p>In progress</p>  |
| <p><b>Hold a Green Fair</b><br/>(Jessica)</p>  | <p>Date confirmed: March 4, 2023<br/>SA Senior Center</p>   |
| <p><b>Removing Lead in Drinking Water</b><br/>(Chris)</p>                              | <p>Review of narrative report data for local structures (3,000+ older structures in South Amboy). Discussion on labs that do water testing and next steps. Suggestion to connect with Kristen Tempe from Test America Lab who has extensive experience with Green activities. Jay will reach out.</p>   |
| <p><b>Innovative Community Projects</b><br/>(Mary)</p>                                 | <p>Public Engagement Plan drafted Marketing, recruiting and supporting volunteers, social media, flyers.<br/>Next steps - create group.</p>   |
| <p><b>Community Education &amp; Outreach</b><br/>(Mary)</p>                            | <p>Newsletter (quarterly)</p> <p>Promote Green Team, recruit volunteers and plan actions with table at Irish Festival (Oct 1<sup>st</sup>)</p>  |
| <p><b>DIVERSITY &amp; EQUITY - Diversity on Boards &amp; Commission</b><br/>(Mary)</p> | <p>Establish a review committee to evaluate the diversity of appointed municipal boards and commissions, compare to the</p>   |

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|   | community's demographics, and submit a summary report to City Council with recommendations. |
| <b>Community Visioning</b><br>(Mary)                              | TBD – At Green Fair?  |
| <b>Improve Public Engagement in Planning and Zoning</b><br>(Mary) | Finalize Planning Board Guidance document   |
| <b>Historic Preservation Element</b><br>(Mary)                    | Historic Preservation ordinance in process of being updated                                 |
| <b>Establish a Creative Team</b>                                  | Discussions in progress/TBD   |

- 3) **Funding** (clean communities grant money 2017-2022)  
 Discussion: COSA receives \$15k per year which can be applied to specific activities. In the past it has been used for a beach rake and other city activities. We may be able to leverage for future actions.  
 ❖ Jay will follow-up and provide current balance for this year.

**Follow-Up & Pending Actions:**

- Review Project Worksheet/Action List to determine actions already completed and identify future actions, including Green Team leads for specific topics. (*Green Team members*)  
 Mary       Jessica       Brandon       Chris  
 Jay (completed actions)       Anthony       Gerry

**Project Goal:**

Goal: COSA will become Sustainable Jersey Bronze Certified by 2023.  
 Objective: Submit application by May 2023 with a minimum of 150 points  
 (2 out of 13 Priority Actions – 6 of 8 categories)

**Action Items:**

- ❖ Remaining balance of clean communities grant money for 2022 (Jay)
- ❖ Work with Dan to establish a trust account for Green Team (Jay)
- ❖ Connect with Kristen Tempe from Test America Lab (Jay)
- ❖ Volunteer request and graphic on COSA Facebook page (Mary  sent)

**Next Meeting:**

September 8, 2022 | 6pm      Venue: ZOOM (virtual)