



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

13 OCTOBER 2022 | 6 PM  
ZOOM (virtual)

**Members:**             **Jay Elliot**                             Jessica Maliszewski     Christopher Smiga  
                                   Zusette Dato                                     Brandon Russell             Mary Szaro  
                                   Mickey Gross                                     Anthony Conrad

<p><b>Follow-Up &amp; Pending Actions:</b></p>	<p>➤ Review Project Worksheet/Action List to determine actions already completed and identify future actions, including Green Team leads for specific topics. (<i>Green Team members</i>)</p> <p align="center"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mary            <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jessica            <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brandon            <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chris         </p> <p><b>PENDING:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Jay (completed actions – will update worksheet)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Jay will follow-up with Anthony on projects</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Jay will provide Chris with her Kristen’s information (lab)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Jay will follow-up with Arts Commission</p>																												
<p><b>Agenda Topics:</b></p>	<p><b>Project status review</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ 6 of 8 categories</li> <li>✓ 2 priority actions</li> <li>Total points 125+</li> </ul> <p>➤ Need to identify additional actions to ensure 150 pts for certification</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="617 1270 1481 1743"> <thead> <tr> <th>Category</th> <th>Action/Element</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>NATURAL RESOURCES</td> <td>Environmental Commission</td> </tr> <tr> <td>NATURAL RESOURCES</td> <td>Community Forestry Management Plan &amp; NJUCF Accreditation</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ANIMALS IN THE COMMUNITY</td> <td>Wildlife Interaction Plan</td> </tr> <tr> <td>BROWNFIELDS</td> <td>Brownfields Inventory &amp; Prioritization</td> </tr> <tr> <td>COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP &amp; OUTREACH</td> <td>Hold a Green Fair</td> </tr> <tr> <td>INNOVATIVE COMMUNITY PROJECTS</td> <td>Innovative Community Projects/PEG</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SUSTAINABILITY &amp; CLIMATE PLANNING</td> <td>Community Visioning</td> </tr> <tr> <td>COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP &amp; OUTREACH</td> <td>Community Education &amp; Outreach</td> </tr> <tr> <td>PUBLIC INFORMATION &amp; ENGAGEMENT</td> <td>Improve Public Engagement in Planning and Zoning</td> </tr> <tr> <td>LAND USE &amp; TRANSPORTATION</td> <td>Historic Preservation Element</td> </tr> <tr> <td>DIVERSITY &amp; EQUITY</td> <td>Diversity on Boards &amp; Commissions*</td> </tr> <tr> <td>WASTE MANAGEMENT</td> <td>Prescription Drug Safety and Disposal*</td> </tr> <tr> <td>HEALTH &amp; WELLNESS</td> <td>Removing Lead in Drinking Water</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><b>Project Goal:</b> COSA will become Sustainable Jersey Bronze Certified by 2023.  <b>Objective:</b> Submit application by May 2023 with a minimum of 150 points (2 out of 13 Priority Actions – 6 of 8 categories)</p>	Category	Action/Element	NATURAL RESOURCES	Environmental Commission	NATURAL RESOURCES	Community Forestry Management Plan & NJUCF Accreditation	ANIMALS IN THE COMMUNITY	Wildlife Interaction Plan	BROWNFIELDS	Brownfields Inventory & Prioritization	COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP & OUTREACH	Hold a Green Fair	INNOVATIVE COMMUNITY PROJECTS	Innovative Community Projects/PEG	SUSTAINABILITY & CLIMATE PLANNING	Community Visioning	COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP & OUTREACH	Community Education & Outreach	PUBLIC INFORMATION & ENGAGEMENT	Improve Public Engagement in Planning and Zoning	LAND USE & TRANSPORTATION	Historic Preservation Element	DIVERSITY & EQUITY	Diversity on Boards & Commissions*	WASTE MANAGEMENT	Prescription Drug Safety and Disposal*	HEALTH & WELLNESS	Removing Lead in Drinking Water
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<b>PROJECT UPDATES:</b>	<i>Community Garden</i> (Brandon)	The YMCA location will move forward as a small starter location while other sites are being considered. Gerrie’s team will manage day-to-day maintenance with a plan to build out beds. Brandon will continue to connect with Sayreville to benchmark their community garden activities. Volunteers needed. Council support needed. We need to identify and agree on a municipal property for Sustainable Jersey requirements.
	<i>Environmental Commission</i> (Brandon)	An ordinance will be drafted to initiate the creation of an Environmental Commission. Council support is requested and appreciated.
	<i>Wildlife Interaction Plan</i> (Brandon)	Ongoing – No update
	<i>Brownfields Inventory &amp; Prioritization</i> (Jessica)	Jessica is creating entries for all sites. Twelve have been identified on the DEP website with 1 additional site found.
	<i>Hold a Green Fair</i> (Jessica)	<b>March 4, 2023</b> - SA Senior Center Ideas discussed for food and activities.
	<i>Removing Lead in Drinking Water</i> (Chris)	Jay reached out to Kristen (lab) and provided Chris with her information.  Posted on COSA Facebook: <b>SOUTH AMBOY GREEN TEAM</b> - One of our current projects includes <b>Removing Lead in Drinking Water</b> .  Added to our Webpage: <b>Removing Lead in Drinking Water   "Getting the Lead Out"</b>
	<i>Community Forestry Management Plan &amp; NJUCF Accreditation</i> (Chris) 10-20 pts	<b>ADDED</b> Chris will attend the New Jersey Shade Tree Federation’s Annual Conference on Oct 13 <sup>th</sup> to obtain Core Training Certification for the New Jersey Urban Community Forestry Program (fulfills a training requirement for a community volunteer).*Additional info on shared drive.  Enrollment in the program and the approval of an initial Community Forestry Management Plan would allow the city to apply for NJ Stewardship Grants. Last year, grants up to \$150,000 per project were available for street trees, parks, and natural area plantings . Grants up to \$50,000 were available for resiliency.

		<p>Enrollment in the program would expand educational and career development opportunities for the city’s dedicated DPW team members.</p> <p>There are also grants for up to \$3,000 to hire an approved professional to assist with the creation of an initial plan. I saved a few examples of approved CFMP’s on the shared drive. I believe there’s a forester named Gary Lovallo that does this. He advises Old Bridge’s Shade Tree Commission.</p>
	<b><i>Innovative Community Projects</i></b> (Mary)	<p>Focused on volunteer recruitment.</p> <p><b>Volunteer Welcome &amp; Orientation</b> <b>Oct 13<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm</b> (prior to regular meeting). Email &amp; Welcome packet sent to volunteers.</p>
	<b><i>Community Education &amp; Outreach</i></b> (Mary)	<p>Newsletter (quarterly) Fall 2022 launched Promote Green Team, recruit volunteers and plan actions with table at Irish Festival -Oct 8<sup>th</sup></p>
	<b><i>DIVERSITY &amp; EQUITY - Diversity on Boards &amp; Commission</i></b> (Mary)	<p><i>Evaluate the diversity of appointed municipal boards and commissions, compare to the community's demographics, and submit a summary report to City Council with recommendations.</i></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> List of all city groups created</p>
	<b><i>Community Visioning</i></b> (Mary)	TBD
	<b><i>Improve Public Engagement in Planning and Zoning</i></b> (Mary)	Finalizing Planning Board Guidance document
	<b><i>Historic Preservation Element</i></b> (Mary)	Historic Preservation ordinance in process of being updated
	<b><i>Establish a Creative Team</i></b> (Chris)	<p>Discussions in progress/TBD Chris reached out to Joan Conway - Director of South Amboy Arts to collaborate on Creative Team (response pending).</p> <p>Creation of Creative Team - The City of South Amboy’s Legislative Code, Chapter 15, Article 1, entitled South Amboy Arts Commission, created an 11-member mayor appointed arts commission. (Ord# 21-2019) The purpose of the commission fits perfectly with the goals of Sustainable Jersey.</p> <p>It is my recommendation that the South Amboy Arts Commission serves as the Creative Team and lead the arts and creative culture actions.</p>

		<p>The commission should complete an inclusive Creative Asset Inventory and formulate and implement a Creative Placemaking Plan for the city. I believe this can be done under the direction of the mayor or council. I could share the sustainable jersey materials and the information I gathered so far.</p> <p><i>*Jay will follow-up with Arts Commission</i></p>
<p><b>Agenda Topics:</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✚ Welcome Volunteers! Allison, Mary, Janice, Korie &amp; Anna attended the Volunteer orientation and stayed for the meeting. Valerie Majia (Family Liaison South Amboy Public Schools) also attended the meeting.</li> <li>✚ Green Team - Irish Festival October 8<sup>th</sup> Brandon and Jessica attended the festival. Miscommunication about the Green Team table. Lessons learned for future events.</li> <li>✚ Communications: Jay will follow-up with both             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Student at Perth Amboy HS would like to coordinate a beach cleanup Apr 2023 for his class in South Amboy.</li> <li>2) Pathways to Success Inc (Jay)</li> </ol> </li> <li>✚ Clean Communities Grant Funds – Acceptable Uses discussed</li> <li>✚ Partnerships (PTO, Business Association, Municipal Alliance, etc.) discussed how we can develop partnerships in the future.</li> <li>✚ Beach Clean-Up October 22<sup>nd</sup></li> <li>✚ General Discussion:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* A line item will be added to the budget for the Green Team.</li> <li>* Clean Communities discussion (<a href="https://www.njclean.org/">https://www.njclean.org/</a>) with suggestion to connect with kids/school to help design a Green Team logo.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<p><b>Next Meeting:</b></p>	<p>November 10, 2022   6pm</p>	<p>Venue: ZOOM</p>