Green Sanctuary Committee

FY 2018/2019 Annual Report

Officers: Dawn Hewitt, chair

Adeline Bailey, scribe

Active members: Adeline Bailey, Mike Bailey, Dave Ballantyne, Shari Ballantyne, George Banziger, Andrew Clovis, Jim Grecni, Gary Hamilton, Dawn Hewitt, Chris Jacobs, Roger Kalter, Kelcey Jacobs, Debra Miller, Ralph Olander, Rebecca Phillip, Cindy Taylor, Darryl Ting, and Patti Troisi.

This year, the GSC established a concise mission statement: "To guide and encourage FUUSM and the wider community to live our Seventh Principle and achieve our vision of a sustainable and just world for all."

Other initiatives undertaken during this fiscal year include:

Five solar classes, presented by Jay Warmke of Blue Rock Station:

Build Your Own Solar Generator, held Sept. 22, Oct. 27, March 30;

Solar Energy Overview for Professionals, held Jan. 25

Solar installer Certification Trajning, held March 18-22.

From our pocket change fund, we contributed $100 to accompany a $225 scholarship contributed by the Board of Trust Governors for one student in the Solar Installer class; MOVCA matched FUUSM’s scholarship, also awarding a $325 scholarship to one student. Note that Blue Rock Station donated 25 percent of student fees to the FUUSM General Fund—a total of more than $1,000.

On September 13, we held a Candidate Forum on Energy and the Environment. Four candidates attended in person; two others sent position statements that were read at the event. About 50 citizens attended.

We advised the Buildings and Grounds Committee on energy efficiency improvements to the RE building, which included window work (sealing, glazing, etc.); installation of a high-efficiency heat pump; spray-in wall insulation; programmable thermostat—installed and programmed. These projects were funded from the GSC’s Solar Match Fund—a total of $20,000 raised during the previous fiscal year, earmarked for this very purpose. (Thanks to all who contributed, especially the anonymous donor of $10,000 who challenged the rest of us to chip in.) Dave Ballantyne coordinated this project. His efforts included studying energy consumption utility bill data from both the sanctuary and RE building to determine energy usage trends.

George Banziger and Dave Ballantyne have written numerous guest editorials in the Marietta Times in support of renewable energy and climate change.

Several members of the GSC were active in opposing a proposed sale of city parkland to a private homeowner, and from that, continue to work on city greenspace sustainability with city council member Geoff Shenkel.

The GSC presented public screenings of several movies in conjunction with other local environmental groups, including *A Forest Returns*, with Keep Wayne Wild, and *Reinventing Power*, with the Sierra Club.

In March we launched a plan to clean up the River Trail through East Muskingum Park. Six teams will each work three times a year to pick up trash and remove sweet gum balls. Darryl Ting is coordinating this new and ongoing project.

Mike Bailey updated the recycling instructions in the FUUSM kitchen.

Andrew Clovis again did a brilliant job of planning and conducting the Winter Gardening Series. This year’s theme was “What Does Your Garden Grow?” Each session was well attended by many community residents as well as FUUSM members and friends.

Our ongoing activities are too numerous to list, but some are: FUUSM kitchen recycling, Green Tips in the Order of Service; and membership overlaps and joint activities with other environmental groups, including AAREC, MOVCA, Keep Wayne Wild, and the newly formed chapter of the Citizens’ Climate Lobby.

The Green Sanctuary Committee has never (in recent memory, or perhaps ever) had a budget line. We operate on funds generated from the sale of aluminum collected in the FUUSM kitchen. We use this money to fund speakers, travel expenses, and materials for the Winter Garden Series; social media advertising; and membership fees in a few local environmental organizations. But for the upcoming fiscal year, we have requested a $500 budget line to fund a community-wide, attention-grabbing sustainability forum to be held this winter.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Hewitt

Chair, FUUSM Green Sanctuary Committee