Green Sanctuary Committee

Annual Report

May 2019 through April 2020

Submitted April 29, 2000

Officers: Dawn Hewitt and Annie Warmke, co-chairs

Adeline Bailey, scribe

Active members: Adeline Bailey, Mike Bailey, Dave Ballantyne, Shari Ballantyne, George Banziger, Michael Chisholm, Andrew Clovis, Vic Elam, Tim Finkel, Jim Grecni, Gary Hamilton, Tiffany Harvey, Dawn Hewitt, Chris Jacobs, Kelcey Jacobs, Roger Kalter, Debra Miller, Ralph Olander, Rebecca Phillips, Cindy Taylor, Darryl Ting, Patti Troisi, and Annie Warmke.

The mission of FUUSM’s Green Sanctuary Committee is: "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."

In support of that mission, we met every month, including one meeting via email (in May 2019, when a sendoff party for the Novaks occurred at our regular meeting time); and two via Zoom (March and April 2020, due to COVID-19).

Our initiatives in the past year included:

* Intensive, nearly year-long planning of a Sustainable Marietta Forum, planned for April 3-5, to be followed by a Solar Installer Certification Workshop April 6-10. Both postponed.
* Dave Ballantyne and Roger Kalter investigated under-sink, on-demand water heaters for RE building and oversaw their installation, replacing an oversized electric tank heater.
* George Banziger and Darryl Ting presented a talk at Parkersburg High School on the science of climate change.
* In alliance with Citizen’s Climate Lobby, George and Dave met with Congressman Bill Johnson several times to discuss climate change.
* Just Lunch potluck at Blue Rock Station on May 18, 2019,
* Several GSC members encouraged and assisted with recycling
* July 5 at the Red, White, and Blues Fest at the Lafayette Hotel
* August 10 at YMCA 5K race
* September 28 race in Devola
* Beat Climate Change Coffeehouse Action Theater, part of a nationwide event, with plays, poetry, and other readings on November 16. About 50 people attended. Although not billed as a fund-raiser, the event collected $328 in donations to the GSC Pocket Change Fund.
* October 5 Hoedown fund-raiser at Ballantyne Barn raised $150 for Sustainability Forum.
* Co-hosted a Sierra Club discussion of public lands on September 15.
* Participated in national Solar Tour, discussing FUUSM’s solar installation with 17 (non-FUUSM) community members.
* Added ethically sourced chocolate and shade-grown coffee to GSC Sunday morning coffee sales offerings.
* Becca Pollard of the Sierra Club attended one GSC meeting to promote 100% renewable energy in City of Marietta electricity aggregation. Several GSC members got involved in this issue.
* March Social Justice Sunday, also co-hosted with Sierra Club, Wayne National Forest’s land management plan revision.
* Build Your Own Solar Class on January 25, taught by Jay Warmke; students built a small solar generator and donated it to the Green Sanctuary Committee!!
* To commemorate Earth Day, we encouraged viewing *The Human Element* (online), and then hosted a Zoom discussion, attended by about 18 people (on 12 Zoom windows).
* Sustainability Survey emailed April 20 to all those who planned to participate in the Sustainable Marietta Forum. Response period closes May 1.

Ongoing projects of GSC—conducted in the past, this year, and planned for the future:

* Just Dinner potluck August 2 and January 16; April 3 Just Dinner was canceled.
* GSC members provided Green Tips for Orders of Service throughout the year.
* Mike Bailey continued collecting and selling aluminum, with profits going to the GSC Pocket Change Fund. Some used to purchase cardboard boxes for recycling at events. Even during sequestration, he still picks up bags of aluminum cans left behind the RE building for eventual recycling.
* Many plans were made for April, Earth Month, events, including the Sustainable Marietta Forum. All foiled by COVID-19.
* Many members of GSC worked with Mid-Ohio Valley Climate Action, the Sierra Club, and Citizens Climate Lobby.
* River trail clean-up teams did their duty throughout the year, with Darryl Ting as coordinator.
* GSC members continue managing FUUSM recycling collection (when the building is in use).

We worked so hard to plan the Sustainable Marietta Forum and were sorely disappointed that it had to be postponed. The COVID-19 pandemic demonstrated the importance of focusing on a resilient, sustainable community. We plan to reschedule the forum as soon as we can ascertain a safe date, with sufficient time to reenlist the presenters and notify the public. We also plan to schedule more solar classes with Blue Rock Station when it becomes safe to do so.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Hewitt

Co-Chair, FUUSM Green Sanctuary Committee