April 15, 2019

To Members of the FUUSM Finance Committee:

For the first time in recent memory (or perhaps ever) the Green Sanctuary Committee requests a line in the 2019/2020 budget.

We are in the earliest stages of planning a Sustainability Forum which we hope will generate community-wide interest and participation, and we request $500 to be spent on speaker stipends and travel expenses.

The GSC has long operated on our “pocket change fund,” raised entirely by collecting and selling scrap aluminum and other metals to recycling companies. This income source is unpredictable in its timing and in the amount generated. In the present fiscal year, we have spent $100 from that fund to contribute to a scholarship for solar installer training; $200 on stipends, travel expenses, and materials for the Winter Gardening Series; and memberships in the Ohio Environmental Council and Friends of the Lower Muskingum River totaling $100.

Some small amount of money remains in this fund, but we don’t expect that amount to be able to cover the costs of the big, attention-grabbing sustainability forum we’re envisioning for this winter.

Please note that the Green Sanctuary Committee has raised more than $1,000 for the FUUSM General Fund through four solar energy classes in a fee splitting arrangement with Blue Rock Station. Our fund-raising projects have not only supported FUUSM’s solar installation and expansion, and the electrical interconnectivity of the two buildings, but also matched a $10,000 grant to improve energy efficiency in the RE building. We have brought in more money to the FUUSM General Fund than we are seeking to cover expenses related to a Sustainability Forum.

Again, we are seeking a Green Sanctuary Committee line in the budget for $500 to cover costs associated with a planned Sustainability Forum.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Dawn Hewitt,

Chair, FUUSM Green Sanctuary Committee