

GREEN Organizing Action TEAM (GOAT) Annual Report for 2017
Submitted February 4, 2018

The **Green Organizing Action Team** (GOAT) became a standing committee of Homewood Friends Meeting in the fall of 2017. Before that it was an *ad hoc* committee for several years. The committee met monthly and made some decisions via email between meetings.

Some of the committee's undertakings during the past year:

- Provided information and suggested actions for the Meeting and individuals to take regarding environmental issues in the state legislature, especially the fracking ban. Some committee members were involved in the *ad hoc* Baltimore Quaker Fracking Workgroup: phoning, protesting, and lobbying the Senate committee chair. Two members of the Meeting were arrested during a protest in Annapolis supporting the ban.
- Reviewed "How Eco-Friendly Is Your Meeting House? A Five-Star Quaker Meeting House Rating System" written by Quaker Earthcare Witness and Canadian Yearly Meeting's Quaker Ecology Action Network. Asked House and Grounds Committee to review it as well. This provided some guidance for future action.
- Led an Adult Religious Education session in April called "The Greening of our Meeting".
- Organized a group to attend the People's Climate March on April 29 in Washington, DC.
- Joined Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake's One Water Partnership (OWP), received a \$1000 grant, and undertook several actions to fulfill the grant:
 - ▲ Sponsored a spiritual nature walk conducted by Interfaith Power and Light.
 - ▲ Completed a congregation self-assessment and visioning workshop.
 - ▲ Purchased a projector and screen to improve the film-viewing experience.
 - ▲ Showed two environmental films followed by discussion and refreshments: *From the Ashes* and *Dimming the Sun*. Promoted the events via Evite and to all OWP congregations. Collected email addresses in order to expand our reach for future events.
 - ▲ Started developing plans for a storm water abatement system and green infrastructure in the side yard.
- Provided boxes for recycling all kinds of electronic media, cables, etc.
- Raised funds to purchase a dairy goat and a hive of honey bees for people in need through Heifer International.
- Started discussion with an artist in the Meeting about a GOAT logo.
- Contributed GOAT Noats to most monthly newsletters with information about legislative action, upcoming events, and our activities.

The spiritual state of the committee is congenial, enthusiastic, active, and supportive. We are led to this work and committed to the Meeting, the environment, and each other.

Our biggest challenge is the enormity of the climate crisis, from global destruction of nature to environmental justice for all. There are so many paths to follow that it is sometimes difficult to

focus on what is effective and feasible. Our strengths include a great deal of knowledge about climate issues and events, and a willingness to share with each other. Each of us brings different skills and interests. Every member participates. We work well together and enjoy doing so.

In the coming year we expect to apply for a Chesapeake Bay Trust grant and also use Meeting-budgeted funds to install a storm water abatement system and conservation landscaping on the Meetinghouse grounds. During the 2018 legislative session, we will suggest ways that the Meeting community can support environmental legislation, especially the Maryland Clean Energy Jobs Act. We plan to show environmental films with the intent of establishing a regular cycle of three or four films every year. We hope to display a GOAT logo to identify events and activities.

Members: Carol Beck, Gary Gillespie, Cathy Hanson, Polly Heninger (clerk), John McKusick, Stephan Rogers. Carol, Gary, John, and Polly have been members for several years. We are delighted that Cathy and Stephan joined us this year.