

GREEN Organizing Action TEAM (GOAT) Annual Report for 2018
Submitted February 3, 2019

The GREEN Organizing Action TEAM (GOAT) met monthly in the Meeting Library and made some decisions via email between meetings. On occasion, we invited others to our meetings to provide guidance, especially from House and Grounds Committee.

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

- Advocated for several legislative actions by attending events, lobbying, and providing information and suggested actions for the Meeting and individuals to take regarding environmental issues before the state legislature and Baltimore city council. The main issues were Maryland Clean Energy Jobs Act, state- and city-wide bans on polystyrene foam, and a ban on crude oil trains in Baltimore.
- Obtained a \$5000 grant from Chesapeake Bay Trust (CBT) to enable the Meeting to install a native plant- and pollinator-friendly garden in spring 2019. This will include two cisterns to collect water coming off the roof and improve our storm water management. Activities this year included developing the plans and writing the grant proposal. Our participation in Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake's One Water Partnership (OWP), and assistance from several local organizations, were key in this effort.
- Showed the film "This Changes Everything" and co-sponsored a showing of "Chasing Coral" with the Working Group for the Arts, both followed by discussion and refreshments. Promoted the events via Evite, social media, and email to other OWP congregations. Collected email addresses in order to expand our reach for future events.
- Provided information on the Meeting's solar panels to members of several other faith organizations as a stop on OWP's inspirational bus tours.
- Organized a group to attend the Festival for Change: Climate, Job & Justice in Baltimore.
- Commissioned an artist in the meeting to create a logo for GOAT.
- Provided boxes for recycling all kinds of electronic media, cables, etc.
- Raised funds to purchase two dairy goats and a hive of honey bees for people in need through Heifer International.
- Conducted a survey about workshops and topics of interest to the Meeting community.
- Added a calendar to the Homewood web site containing environment-related events in the region.
- Contributed GOAT Noats to most monthly newsletters with information about legislative action, upcoming events, our activities, and environmental issues.

To answer the question about the committee's spiritual state, we engaged in worship sharing specifically with that aim and found the session useful. Our sense was that GOAT both helped anchor each of us at Homewood Meeting and helped anchor the meeting by providing an expression of the meeting's commitment to the environment. We noted that committee members felt accountable to and supported by one another in our work, which lifted up our

relationships rather than downplaying or undermining them. At each meeting we use silence as a frame that helps us respond to purposes larger than ourselves.

Our biggest challenge is maintaining our optimism in the face of the enormity and urgency 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, a willingness to share with each other, and a clear sense that we are better together than alone. Each of us brings different skills and interests. Every member participates. We work well together and enjoy doing so. We are truly a team.

In the coming year we expect to complete the garden and conduct the workshops and other activities in the CBT grant. We may apply for another grant to install a bigger cistern on the north side of the Meetinghouse. During the 2019 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 the film "High Tide in Dorchester" and invite one of the producers to speak. We also hope to re-invite the goats and goat educator whose visit this year was rained out.

Lastly, two items about the functioning of the committee that we should consider:

- We will have a new clerk and should consider clarifying roles and tasks. Right now, Polly clerks the meetings, writes the notes, and represents the committee in a variety of ways. It is a lot for one person to do. Should we consider organizing these tasks differently?
- Although the original team was not comprised of all of the members of the current committee, most of the current members were on board when we became a committee of the Meeting. We should give some thought to how we provide for member sustainability and succession... lest we all leave at once!

Members: Carol Beck, Caitlyn Behnke, Gary Gillespie, Cathy Hanson, Polly Heninger (clerk), Bess Keller, John McKusick, Stephan Rogers. We are pleased that Caitlyn and Bess, a GreenFaith Fellow, joined us this year.