

GREEN ORGANIZING ACTION TEAM:

“GOAT NOAT” FOR APRIL 2021

Climate Solutions Now (CSN) Act in the Maryland Assembly

The Meeting endorsed the Climate Solutions Now Act. If fully enacted, the bill would do the following things:

- Increase Maryland’s greenhouse gas reduction mandate to 60% by 2030 and net zero by 2045;
- Charge the Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities with determining what percentage of Maryland’s climate funding must be spent in overburdened, underserved communities;
- Create a Worker Transition work group that will convene leaders in labor, industry, and policy makers to make recommendations to protect fossil fuel workers;
- Plant 5 million trees, including 500,000 trees in underserved, urban communities;
- Increase Maryland’s annual energy efficiency gains from 2% a year to 3% a year;
- Improve air quality monitoring at landfills;
- Require new State buildings to be net neutral and require efficiency gains in large residential and commercial buildings;
- Purchase new electric vehicles as the Maryland fleet turns over;
- Prohibit highway widening and unproven carbon capture and storage technology as emissions reduction pathways in our state climate planning; and
- Require accurate accounting of methane impacts and the use of best available scientific information in our climate plans.

The bill has been passed by the State Senate in a bi-partisan and gubernatorial-proof vote. It is now with the House of Delegates and has until April 12th to be passed out of House Committee and voted upon on the House floor. The prospects for passage are good, but in no way assured.

Continued advocacy from citizens to their Delegates is essential! Please follow take action with guidance from Quaker Voice in Maryland:

<https://www.quakervoice.md.org/legislative-session#h.tv9a49dd2c1v>

News from the Garden

Spring is coming and the Garden Club held its first gathering of the growing season on March 27th. It was a lovely sunny spring day with the temperature on the south-facing wall in the low 70’s and the temperature in the upper 50’s on the north-facing wall of 3105 N. Charles Street. It was like two different climates! Nine Friends gathered for work and fellowship and weeded, pruned, and trimmed. A few plants are beginning to bloom and there was a cadre of volunteer wild flowers in bloom, too. It was very tempting to do more on such a perfect day, but our leader, Gary Gillespie pointed out that we are not seeing all the plants in the garden and we should be patient. In other words, don’t do too much, now. Ah yes, patience.....the gardener’s friend!

Please join us for our next Garden Club work day. Tentatively, we are planning to meet on Saturday, April 10th at 10 AM. Look for a confirmation of that meeting in the Weekly Announcement or contact Gary Gillespie, Clerk of GOAT.

Members of GOAT are: Carol Beck, Stan Becker, Gary Gillespie, Bess Keller, Luke Mayhew, John McKusick, Rachael Neill, and Heather Ravlin.