

Green Sanctuary Committee
August 21, 2007

Present: Steve Votey, Tom Stipe, Karen Wigglesworth, Betty Massie, Kay Hanson, Kay Wilkins, Jared Hanson, and Pam Person

Absent: David Towle, Karen Vockhausen, Becca Gagne and Dusty Bailey

Energy Audit

David emailed all an example of a “Green Audit” check list from the UU Church of the North Hills and it was agreed that it provided a good starting point for us. Pam has agreed to be the audit co coordinator and she reported that we now have a copy of the previous audit. Discussion followed regarding tracking the energy use, kitchen update, stove replacement, damaged ceiling in the kitchen, and need to improve insulation especially in sanctuary.

- Action Plan:
- 1) **Pam will** give audit to **Steve who will** email it to all committee members
 - 2) **Steve will** generate a spread sheet for all energy use including dollar amounts. He will also graph this at Kay W’s request.
 - 3) **Steve will** organize a “blue print task” possibly consisting of David Towle, Bob Dickens and himself. The **task force will**:
 - a. review blue prints
 - b. generate focused questions to ask Steve Shay (builder of sanctuary)
 - c. invite Steve Shay to church to answer questions

Recycling

Betty suggested that the church get out of the recycling business, Pam named this “carry in/carry out”. Discussion included issues regarding the renters, what items Ellsworth recycling center accepts, what Margo (preschool teacher) does, and what is being done with the composting. It was not clear whether it was garbage or composting material. The question was asked whether anyone had taken recycling from the church in the last three months suggesting that we may not have a need for a recycling program.

- Action Plan:
- 1) **All to review** check list from UU Church of the North Hills for ideas regarding needs for recycling in a green sanctuary.
 - 2) **Kay H. will** take all of current recyclables to center.
 - 3) **Kay H. and Jared will** make signs asking all to help out by taking home all that is recyclable but also providing four bins indicating what can be placed there rather than trashing it.
 - 4) Evaluate at the next meeting whether need recycling program.
 - 5) **Steve will** talk with Sue Walsh regarding the current composting as a first step in evaluating whether we should continue this.

Investments

Kay W. reported that this was discussed at the last Board of Trustees meeting.

Action Plan: 1) A rep. from Maine Community Foundation will come for public session on 9/13/07 at 7 p.m. and all are encouraged to attend.

Landscaping

Steve wants to make sure that a green approach is being used in landscaping procedures of the church. Kay W. reported that she is working with Sue Stahlberg regarding this.

Cloth Napkins

Steve reported that he had researched on the internet the issues of sanitation of using cloth napkins as well as discussed this with the hospital representative at his work and was assured that as long as the napkins were properly laundered that they were safe to use. It was reported that Diana Cate had volunteered to be the permanent laundry person and does so very carefully. Diana will find someone to take the job when she is not available. It was also pointed out that the paper napkins that we use are made of 100% recycled paper. It was pointed out that there is not always a right answer as there are many approaches and variables and that our knowledge changes.

Other Items

Kay W. reminded us that we made an error regarding the cloth napkins issue in that we failed to discuss this with the coffee hour committee before assigning the job of laundering to a person who volunteered for coffee hour. **Kay volunteered** to pay closer attention to these situations but **we all must do** so as in all of this committee's efforts, other committees will be involved. One effort to resolve these kinds of situations is the now forming "committee of chairs (of committees)". Steve and Lyana Votey will be co-conveners of this group.

Willow Runningwater fell twice following her surgery and had to be hospitalized to have her knee rebuilt. She is in a full leg cast and will be for about three months. She and her husband Jim Walker rely heavily on the produce from their garden and neither is able to do the work of gardening. Kay W. and Dartha Reed are forming a "garden party" for Saturday, Aug. 25, leaving from the church at 9:30. All who can are encouraged to come with food for a shared lunch and to help out in Willow and Jim's garden.

Betty, Pam and Karen passed out information pertaining purchasing cleaner electricity. **All are encouraged** to review for a discussion at next meeting.

Steve passed out information regarding "Becoming a Green Sanctuary". **Pam will** review and put a committee tracking list on it so all can read. Pam has a particularly energy efficient home and has developed a list of 39 things to do to improve a home's efficiency. **She will** email a copy to all committee members. This will be used for our newsletter contributions.

Next Meeting: September 18, 2007 7:00 p.m.

Submitted by: B. Massie