

THE BEDFORD GARDEN CLUB
MINUTES
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5, 2008
HOME OF DOMINIQUE BUARON
9AM

Present: Buaron, Conrad, Finnegan, Maybank, Reynders, Robinson, Selby, Tatnall, Wortmann

Call to Order: Ellen Conrad called the meeting to order and thanked Dominique for hosting the meeting.

Recording Secretary's Report: A motion was passed to waive the reading of the Minutes.

Corresponding Secretary's Report: Janet Robinson reported that more members are responding to meetings by Blue Card (about 40-50) than by email (about 5-8). It was agreed that we should work toward e-mail notice and responses. This will go on the agenda for Operations Committee.

Treasurer's Report: Virginia Maybank circulated her report. There was a discussion of BGC donations to local organizations. Should we continue with small donations to many organizations or should we try to make a bigger impact with just one large donation? This issue will be referred to the Operations Committee to consider and report back to the Executive Committee.

Ellen added that we are being asked to lend our expertise to various community projects as a result of our involvement with the BHES, the Westchester Land Trust project and the Town of Bedford's Energy Advisory Panel.

A motion was passed to fund the travel expenses for two to the GCA annual meeting. \$1500.00 will be added to next year's budget to cover the expenses for this event.

A motion was passed to cover the expenses for 2 members to travel to the Albany meeting this year. This will be drawn from the Waller Fund.

Exhibitions: Leslie Wortman reported on a great workshop last week led by Dominique Buaron on "Interpretive Arrangements". Twelve people attended. Leslie would like to have more educational workshops.

Conservation: Bitsy Tatnall reported on the very successful and well attended open meeting on February 13 at John Jay Homestead featuring Paul Tukey.

Hopp Ground Garden Club will host an open meeting on organic lawn care.

April is Earth Month in Bedford. On Saturday, April 12, the Bedford Garden Club, in collaboration with the Town Energy Advisory Panel and Shirley Bianco's Hilltop Farm, will host a "Compost Giveaway". Free sheep manure will be available for pick up at Hilltop Farm in Yorktown. During the week of April 14 local merchants will be asked not to use plastic bags.

There was a discussion of the expanding scope of the Conservation Committee's work and whether we should create subcommittees. Bitsy suggested the next year's focus might be local food production, farming and vegetable gardens.

Other Business

Schedule of Remaining Meetings:

April 2: Exec Meeting at Bitsy Tatnall's

April 16: Regular Meeting at Historical Hall, Speaker is Kent Russell 9:00 am

May 14: Exec Meeting at Heather Langham's

May 21: Plant Exchange

June 4: Exec Meeting at Ellen Conrad's

June 18: Annual Meeting at Shirley Biamco's 2pm

Nominating Committee

Nonie Reynders was elected to be Chair of the Nominating Committee. The following positions will be open at the end of this year:

Treasurer

2nd Vice President

Recording Secretary

4 Members at Large

Founder's Fund: Varner Redmon will send out a link to the Founders Fund options for this year. Varner will tally the votes and let Ellen know of the winning project.

Ellen asked all Committee heads to write up a brief report of each meeting and workshop (who attended, what was done). It was agreed that the reports should be posted on the website.

Ellen asked for volunteers to work with Wendy Cushman on the Programs Committee. Varner and Dominique volunteered to help.

Planning Committee Updates

John Jay Gardens Update: Next Tuesday a group will meet at JJ to discuss a plan for the gardens. (8:30 in the parking lot)

New York Botanical Garden Update:

Ellen announced that she has spoken with Todd Forrest about a proposed partnership with the NYBG that might include a reduced rate membership for BGC members and a series of classes for BGC members. Ellen added that our arrangement with the NYBG could serve as a template for GCA to use with garden clubs and Botanical Gardens across the country. There is a GCA meeting at the NYBG in October, Todd would like to have a plan in place to announce at that time.

Westchester Land Trust Partnership update:

Nonie Reynders invited all Exec Committee members to come for a tour of the greenhouse at the Tilt property. She announced that Rusticus members are very excited about this partnership. They would like to see 2nd phase estimates (for a heat alarm, temp. control, etc) included in the budget.

Save a Tree would offer a lower rate for tree work

Nonie added that she had spoken with Heritage Fuel about the boiler. Should we consider propane or “bio-fuel” boiler as well?.

R. Deisel could begin restoration work in early May.

We are looking forward to the Greenhouse being a showplace of community involvement

Ellen Thanked Nonie for her time and research.

The meeting was adjourned.