

Bedford Garden Club  
Minutes  
Executive Committee Meeting (via Zoom)  
9 am April 13, 2022

**Attendance:** Beth Sachs, Virginia Maybank, Suzanne Bowers, Cynthia Mas, Nancy Kronenberg, Susan West, Tina Winchester, Leslie Wortmann, Diane Lewis, Ellen Conrad, Emily Grand, Debbie Gour, Leslie Regan, Varner Redmon, Christine Frisbee, Kim Morris, Nancy Vincent, Heather Langham, Cecilia Wolfson

**Welcome:** President's Report Beth Sachs

Beth opened the meeting and said that it is an exciting time for the BGC, and thanked everyone for working so energetically on so many projects. She mentioned that we will most likely need to wear masks for next week's general meeting but is thrilled that we will be meeting in person at Ward Pound Ridge and will be able to see the beginnings of our new Wildflower Garden.

Beth mentioned that we have several important topics to cover including voting on the proposed slate for new Members, reviewing a preliminary budget for next year and discussing a new Grants and Scholarship proposal from the Audubon Society and said that it will be important to have a quorum for these topics.

Beth noted that Anita has been able to secure some very prominent judges to jury the Photography show at our Annual Meeting at Caramoor this June and encouraged everyone to participate. Anita is extending the deadline by one week so that more members will have the opportunity to enter. A photo can be included even if was not taken recently, as long as it has not been entered into a show previously.

Beth is excited that the GCA has taken a more robust approach towards fulfilling our mission to protect our water, land, plants, birds and bees. The latest Bulletin is devoted to water and highlights one of the biggest concerns which is the prevalence of plastics in both freshwater and our oceans. Beth applauded Jayni Chase, Ellen Conrad and Diane Lewis for the important work they are doing in mobilizing national leadership to speak about and focus on these issues. Kudos to Jayni and to Ellen and Diane for working so hard and showing what a large impact we can have.

The final program of our Nature Series will be held on May 7<sup>th</sup>, "Spring Ephemerals" at the Westmoreland Sanctuary. The Series will continue next year and Beth is excited that Linda Merrill has agreed to join Beth as co-chair of the program going forward. One idea has already started to formulate for next year: Emily Fisher and her husband Murray have invited us to tour the Billion Oyster Project which will be fascinating and a wonderful opportunity to learn about this important work. Beth hopes that many of our members will participate.

**Minutes:** Suzanne Bowers

A motion was made to waive the reading of the minutes from the February Executive Committee Meeting and was seconded. The minutes were then unanimously approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** Virginia Maybank

It was determined that Virginia would report later in the meeting to ensure that we had a sufficient amount of members to discuss the proposed budget.

**Floral Design:** Leslie Wortmann

Leslie reported that she has a busy few months coming up but has met with Kim and Michaela, is all set and organized for the upcoming meetings and will be in touch with her committee to ask for volunteers to help with hostessing and flower arranging duties. She hopes to give a small presentation at the

Annual Meeting on the Flower Show plans for the Zone III meeting next June and is planning a big kick-off for this in September.

**Membership:** Cynthia Mas

Cynthia introduced the slate of candidates who are being proposed for membership to the Bedford Garden Club this year. The Executive Committee had been sent the slate previously so that we could all read about each candidate. Cynthia beautifully summarized each candidate by stating their proposer, seconder, supporters and gave a brief background for each one.

**2022 Slate of Candidates for Membership to the Bedford Garden Club**

Annie Manning- proposed by Marilyn Tilt // Secunder: Kim Morris  
CC Marrone- Proposed by Ginger Getz // Secunder: Mackenzie Mas  
Tania Edwards- Proposed by Liza Clymer // Secunder: Ginger Getz  
Heidi Fahey- Proposed by Candy Borner // Secunder: Kim Morris  
Ursala LaMotte- Proposed by June Weissinger // Secunder: Kirk Ferguson  
Christopher Brescia- Proposed by Carol Bouycous // Secunder: Liza Clymer

A full summary of the above candidates is attached to these minutes.

Cynthia reminded us that the Executive Committee has foregone secret ballot voting for the past 2 years. Beth announced that we would vote on the entire slate, noted the importance of having a quorum and reminded the Committee who among us is able to vote. A show of hands confirmed that we had a quorum. A motion was made to approve the above slate of candidates by Leslie Regan and was seconded by Ellen Conrad. All were in favor and the new slate was unanimously approved. Beth and the entire Executive Committee thanked Cynthia and the Membership Committee for their hard work and said that we are all excited to have such talent join our club. Cynthia said she would let the candidates know on Wednesday, April 20<sup>th</sup> and that their first meeting would be the Plant Exchange in May. The new members will also be presented at the Annual Meeting in June.

**Standing Committee Reports/Special Committee reports**

**Civic Affairs and Conservation:** Ellen Conrad and Jayni Chase

Ellen reported that the committee is moving ahead on two initiatives. They are working with Rod Christie and Mianus River Gorge on the removal of invasives. Rod has given his suggestions for a letter to be sent to club members who would like to have their properties evaluated for invasives by Rod and his staff. Ellen continues to work with Neighbor's Link to see if their workers could be helpful with this project. They are also working on the Birds and Bees Protection Act which is an important piece of legislature to reduce the amount of neonicotinoids used. Ellen noted that a lobbying day led by Dan Raichel, Director of the Pollenator Institute of NRDC, is being organized in Albany. Ellen will send an information memo to the BGC membership on the details of this day for all those who would like to participate.

**Garden History and Design:** Susan Burke, Wendy Cushman, Varner Redmon

Varner said they don't have much to report at this time. They continue to document members' gardens. The documentation of Denise Santomero's gardens should be finished soon.

**Trips and Visiting Gardens:** Varner Redmon

Varner mentioned that she hopes Cynthia Mas will help her organize trips and visiting gardens going forward. Cynthia said she would be happy to help. Varner mentioned a trip to Olana in the fall and perhaps an overnight trip to the Philadelphia area in late summer/fall.

**Horticulture:** Virginia Maybank and Tina Winchester

Tina reported that spring is a busy time and the horticulture committee has been gearing up for the season. A workshop will take place at Virginia's house on April 27<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am. They will have a brief discussion of the April ideas for the Almanac and then a workshop led by Virginia on best practices in starting seeds. Virginia and Tina will supply containers and seed starting mixture and ask that participants bring their own seeds. Virginia spoke about the troughs that were made in November and suggested a trip to Oliver's Nursery in early May as they have a fantastic Alpine collection that would be great plants for the troughs.

**Road Clean up:** Kim Morris

Kim said that the Chowder and Marching clean up days are on May 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> and suggested that we do our road clean up at that time as well. Cynthia offered to help. Tentative date is May 4<sup>th</sup>.

Varner mentioned that she will be sending out an announcement to sign up for garden clean ups at the Court House and John Jay Homestead and asked everyone to sign up as we have much to take care of.

**Branch Out:** Heather Langham and Virginia Maybank

Heather and Virginia are working with Bedford 2030 to create a large map to track the success of the 120 saplings that were grown by five members and sold in September. They are also working with Kevin Winn to identify the best trees for planting along the new sidewalks that are being laid in Bedford Hills. They noted that Kevin will be using special soil that is engineered to encourage tree growth under the sidewalks. Diane Lewis said that she has a possible contact at Cornell who has studied sidewalk trees and that she would try to put Heather and Virginia in contact with her.

**Photography:** Anita Stockbridge

Beth asked Chris Frisbee to speak on behalf of Anita regarding entrees to our Photography Show during the Annual Meeting. Chris said that while the process may seem daunting at first, it is actually quite easy to do and that she would be happy to help anyone with their photo preparation. She encourages everyone to participate as several well-known judges will be there to critique our work that day.

**Programs:** Michaela Beitzel and Kim Morris

Kim said there was nothing to report at this time. They toured Caramoor recently with Betsy Mitchell to prepare for the Annual Meeting.

**Seedlings:** Emily Grand

Emily reported that it is fairly quiet at this time. She asked the group if we should stick to our calendar and organize the Seedling/Proposer lunch in September or do it in the spring. The consensus was to have it in September. Cynthia mentioned having a welcome cocktail party as well. Heather said she would like speak with Emily about Seedlings and the Zone meeting.

**Website:** Emily Grand and Nancy Vincent

Nancy noted that they have included many of the answers from the Membership Questionnaire in the "specs" that they are going to give to potential website designers. They currently have 4 pages of specs.

She and Emily have looked at many local club websites and will be sending links to 4 of these to the Executive Committee. They would appreciate our feedback.

**Grants and Scholarship:** Cecilia Wolfson and Caroline Black

Cecilia gave a presentation and brief summary of the application from the Bedford Audubon Society for a Bedford Garden Club Scholarship totaling \$2000. This request is summarized below and the full application is attached to these minutes.

Bedford Audubon Society

Application for a 2022 Bedford Garden Club Scholarship

Bedford Audubon is seeking a \$2000 Bedford Garden Club Scholarship to fund our hosting of a Leon Levy Native Garden Internship this summer. This internship will give a college senior or graduate student intern the opportunity to assist in the expansion and renovation of Bedford Audubon's Leon Levy Native Garden and related education and outreach efforts.

More detailed internship objectives include the following:

- Productively fulfill an identified short-term, seasonal, or project need in line with Bedford Audubon's main engagement mission associated with the Garden
- Help interns gain the critical technical and soft skills for successful graduate school applications and competitive job applications
- Provide an authentic and professional field experience to excite and propel young environmentally minded students
- Inspire, develop, and foster an inquisitive character and a life-long appreciation for the natural world through mentorship and experiential education

A discussion ensued.

Virginia noted that the funds for this scholarship would be taken out of this year's cash flow.

Ellen noted what an extraordinary opportunity this is for a young student.

Beth confirmed that we had a sufficient quantity of voting members to ensure a quorum. A motion was made by Varner Redmon to grant this request, was seconded by Emily Grand and was unanimously approved by the voting members.

**Corresponding Secretary:** Leslie Regan

No report.

**Members' Calendar:** Tersey Regan

Beth asked the committee to make sure they send their important dates to Tersey for inclusion on the calendar.

**Historian:**

Susan said that she is working in two phases on the Bedford Garden Club history. The first phase is to take all documentation and put it in acid protected sheets and archival boxes. There are over 200 documents. The second phase is to redo phase 1 to ensure that it is being done in accordance to GCA formatting. Phase three will be done in the future – this will entail speaking with older members to help Susan date and identify historic photos. She will be asking for help especially from members who are talented with computers. Beth thanked Susan for the amazing work she is accomplishing for the BGC.

**Treasurer's Report:** Virginia Maybank

Virginia noted that the Treasurer's Report is for the months of February and March. Our account as of February 1, 2022 was \$138,000 and the balance on March 31 was \$132,000. Virginia said that we received some dues during that time and that we had some expenses for programs, archives, the President's Fund and that we funded \$5000 to the Mianus River Gorge for their approved grant, and \$1500 out of the \$3000 grant awarded to the Westmoreland Sanctuary.

Virginia then presented a preliminary draft of the proposed budget for next year. She said that we will be discussing the proposed budget this month, the Executive Committee will vote on the budget in May and it will be presented to the club for a membership vote at the Annual Meeting in June.

A discussion ensued. Some of the important topics included:

- Virginia proposes that the excess revenue that we have gets incorporated into next year's budget. This is money that has not been spend by the club. Virginia feels it makes sense to identify it and make use of it.
- We discussed the allocation of funds for travel and expenses related to conferences.
- We discussed whether internships and project review would be two separate categories.
- Whether the GCA Founders Fund has been folded into the "GCA 21<sup>st</sup> Century Fund".

Virginia proposed that she make several changes based on the discussion points above and that she will resend a revised proposal to the Executive Committee via email for discussion prior to the May meeting. She also offered to host a discussion over Zoom prior to the meeting if helpful.

Beth thanked Virginia for the remarkable job she is doing for the club.

Meeting Adjourned at 11:14 am.

**May 2022 Executive Committee Meeting:**

The next Executive Committee Meeting will be held via Zoom on Wednesday, May 11<sup>th</sup> at 9 AM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Suzanne Bowers  
Recording Secretary