

Bedford Garden Club
Executive Committee Meeting
201 Croton Lake Road, Katonah
January 10, 2018
9:30 a.m.

Attendance: Liza Clymer, Robin Ashley, Carol Bouyoucos, Jayni Chase, Ellen Conrad, Deirdre Glascott, Mary Kendrick, Nancy Kronenberg, Linda Merrill, Lynda Morris, Varner Redmon, Anita Stockbridge, Holly Warshaw, Tina Winchester

Minutes of the December 13, 2017 Executive Committee Meeting

After a motion was made and seconded, the minutes of the December 13 meeting were unanimously approved by hand vote.

Treasurer's report

Tina Winchester confirmed that Greens Day, rather than netting \$1,200 as budgeted, lost about \$500. While disappointing, our healthy balances can accommodate the loss, she said. Liza said that plans will be begun early for this year's event. Varner noted that, until recent years, Greens Day was not viewed as a fund raiser.

A brief discussion touched on in what form the monthly financial statement should be represented. Debbie Gourd had passed out a hard copy at meetings. In the interest of saving paper and getting the report to all interested members, Varner suggested that the statement be placed monthly on our website.

Conservation

Jayni Chase reported on her recent conversation with Rod Christy, Director, Mianus River Gorge. He would be pleased to come to one of our homes to meet with a group of our members to identify specific trees. He would identify and distinguish among healthy and stressed or diseased trees. She said that he cautioned not to cut down trees simply because they are endangered ones that are generally under attack by pests. New techniques are being developed, she said, that may allow these trees to be saved. A list of trees would be provided to members, the same as or similar to the one provided to us by Nancy Kronenberg last year that Rod had prepared. Jayni will look into providing participants with guide books such as the ones she brought to our meeting: The National Audubon's *Field Guide to Trees and Trees: A Golden Guide* and from St. Martin's Press, *Trees of North America: A Guide to Field Identification*. Bill Davies, who provides tree services for many of our properties might be consulted with to suggest properties of particular interest.

Ellen Conrad noted that while there have been no committee meetings as yet, workshops are being planned. An email to club members will be sent to enlist committee members and participation.

Ellen and Jayni led a discussion regarding how we might participate in Bedford 2020's "Climate Action Summit" on February 3, 2018 at the Fox Lane High School. Ellen said that the summit represents a regionwide effort to address climate change. Among those expected to attend are several elected officials who may take away ideas for policy implementation.

Carol and Liza pointed out the extremely short time for us to prepare. Ellen can get us one of the limited tables at the event. While the up-coming General Membership meeting scheduled for January 17 will not have a formal business meeting as it is an "Open Meeting", Ellen will have the opportunity to enlist participants who will help man our table. Several ideas were introduced regarding our potential role in the summit, a few of which included the following:

- Robin – she could provide seed packages for native plants to be available.
- Carol - contact GCA for suggestions.
- Ellen – have books, such as the aforementioned ones, available for sale or just have samples with information provided for ordering online.
- Ask the Audubon Society or Fresh Energy how we might supplement their efforts at the Expo.

The discussion on the Expo concluded with Robin and Carol designated to plan our participation.

In addition, Jayni and Chevy Chase will be hosting a dinner to benefit the organization.

Horticulture

Robin Ashley will be hosting the previously announced “Rose Workshop” on February 28. No one has preordered roses through Dana Worlock from the catalogue that was distributed in the fall. Dana is planning to engage a speaker.

The workshop planned for April 11 on growing willow fencing to deter deer and provide privacy has been cancelled due to lack of interest.

Plans are afoot, Robin said, for our plant exchange in May. Dana has some great ideas. Plants from sources other than our own gardens will, most likely, be offered for sale.

Zone III Meeting, 2018

Liza said that we will be bringing specific specimens and plants to the May 15 – 17 Zone III meeting in Cooperstown, NY. For this year’s meeting we need volunteers to grow certain grasses. Robin will organize a planting workshop and notify members by email.

Horticulture chairs Robin Ashley and Dana Worlock will coordinate selection of plant materials to take to Cooperstown. We need branches of various woody plants that will be blooming in May, such as dogwood, apple and pear trees as well as perennial plants in bloom in May such as hellebores, daffodils, peonies and alliums. They plan to visit our gardens over the Mother’s Day weekend, May 12, 13 and 14 to harvest flowers or simply ask that a member bring a 30” or shorter cutting to the appointed staging area for the trip to Cooperstown.

GCA Annual Meeting, 2018

Liza will be attending this year’s meeting in San Francisco. The distance precludes her and others from our area taking any plant material.

Garden History & Design

Carol Bouyoucos announced that documentation of our former member Marna and her husband Robert MacLean’s Riverview Ranch, Wilson, WY has been preliminarily accepted by the Smithsonian. Just a few minor changes are required and we expect it to be accepted within the next few months.

Programs

Liza reported in Joyce Corrigan’s absence. On January 17, 2018 our General Membership meeting will be held at the Katonah Library where Kim Eierman, Founder of EcoBeneficial, will speak on the “Butterfly Effect”. Mary Kendrick will officiate at the meeting, in Liza’s absence. Because the meeting is an “Open Meeting”, club business will not be discussed.

Chandler Burr will be our speaker for the February 14, Valentine’s Day, meeting in the Music Room at Caramoor’s Rosen House. Mr. Burr, a noted perfume critic, journalist, museum curator and author of several books, most recently, ***The Perfect Scent: A Year Inside the Perfume Industry in Paris & New York***, will be offering the book for sale. Rusticus will participate with us. A maximum of 80 attendees will be allowed.

Liza requested that a bookplate sticker be available for him to sign. Carol agreed to design and reproduce such a plate.

Liza has invited three Zone III officials to the February 3d function who are invited afterwards along with a very few others to a luncheon that Joyce is planning.

Our May plant exchange may be held at a member's house rather than the BTC which has become rather expensive. Tina offered up her big barn as a possible venue.

Project Review

Mary Kendrick presented the two requests she has received:

1. The Mianus River Gorge (MRG) requested \$3,000 out of the \$15,000 estimated cost for their Wildlife and Habitat Consultation program. The free service is accessible to all Bedford residents (as well as to those in surrounding communities). They offer a one-hour consultation which entails having a team of MRG scientists visit a private property to answer questions and suggest solutions to a variety of issues including plant and animal identification; wildlife management; natural history; invasive species; woodland, field and pond management solutions; and other ecological issues. Our funding would be applied, as follows: Design and Printing of Wildlife Consultation Brochure and Associated Handouts, \$700; two cameras @\$550 each; related accessories, \$200 total; staff time and travel, \$1,000.
2. The Marsh Sanctuary requested \$5,000 to repair and restore the decaying amphitheater columns, the stone work in the surrounding six tier amphitheater seating area, as well as the crumbling footbridges and retaining walls by the stream running through and the native plant garden.

It was noted that although our current year's budget allows only \$3,000 to be allocated to this purpose, we had discussed increasing the amount. Additionally, because of the success of our fall benefit, we have funding available for a much greater amount.

After evaluation of the two proposals, the Committee voted unanimously to approve both proposals for a total of \$8,000. This does not imply that future years' allocations will remain at this level and will be subject to our financial circumstances as they may change.

Ellen recommended that the board for the Marsh Sanctuary commit to raise matching funds. While not a requirement, this message will be conveyed to their board.

Ellen also recommended that we broadly communicate our sponsorship of these two worthy projects that benefit the community. Liza will ask Joyce to help get the stories in the **Record Review**. She will also contact Jennifer Stahlkrantz, Editor, **Bedford Magazine**, requesting that a piece be done on both. The bottom line, Ellen said, is to figure out how to build community sponsorship of these organizations.

Membership

This week, Liza will send a letter that she had previously reviewed with us to the six members who have not paid their dues.

January Executive Committee Meeting

The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be held at 9:30 a.m. at the home of Liza Clymer on Wednesday, February 7, 2018.

Meeting adjourned at 11:40pm.

Linda J. Merrill
Recording Secretary