

**Bedford Garden Club
Executive Committee Meeting
Home of Liza Clymer
201 Croton Lake Road
January 2, 2019
9:30 a.m.**

Attendance: Liza Clymer, Carol Bouyoucos, Ellen Conrad, Mary Kendrick, Nancy Kronenberg, Linda Merrill, Varner Redmon, Anita Stockbridge, Nancy Vincent, Tina Winchester

Liza Clymer wished all present a Happy New Year and welcomed us to the first Executive Committee meeting for 2019. She commented on the sad news of the sudden death of our dear member Cassie Kernan at yearend. Liza will arrange to have a memorial piece written by one of Cassie's close garden club friends.

Treasurer's Report

Tina Winchester reported on the excellent financial results for Greens Day. The club netted \$3,900, with gross proceeds of \$8,400 and expenses of \$4,500. All agreed that Dana Worlock and Robin Ashley had done a tremendous job. It was noted, however, that there was a large amount of unused greenery. Dana took back about \$1,000 of material. They have both volunteered to chair the event next year with even better results, having learned from this year's experience. They will also be encouraged to take on a junior partner next year who might step into their roles in a subsequent year.

Programs

Nancy Kronenberg went over the schedule of programs for the remainder of our fiscal year ending in June. Coming up soon on January 16 we will have Tama Matsukua speak about "foraging" at Historical Hall. This will be followed on February 13 at St. Matthews with club member Martha Stewart giving a presentation on designing floral arrangements using flowers from one's own garden. Martha's book on the subject will be offered for sale. Nancy K is buying a number of them for the event, and will be able to return any not sold.

A discussion on technology requirements for presentations ensued. We do not at this time own a projector, relying usually on the facility used for the presentation to provide one. Varner encouraged us not to buy one owing to rapid technology changes making whatever one might buy obsolete in a short period of time. Ellen recommended that we ask our speakers to put their power point presentations on a flash drive. A discussion must be had in advance about each presenter's needs.

Nancy said that Susan Burke has arranged for James Brayton Hall, CEO of the Garden Conservancy, to speak to us at our April 17 general membership meeting. Susan had planned to hold it at her barn, but due to construction delays we may use St. Matthews which provides the formal setting needed for his presentation.

On May 1, 2019 we have an Open Meeting with Rusticus joining us at John Jay Homestead. Andrea Wulf has been engaged through the efforts of Beth Sachs. Rusticus will share the cost with us. Later in May, on the 15th, we'll be at Tina Winchester's Barn for our general meeting and annual Plant Exchange.

Our Annual Meeting on June 12 is currently scheduled for the John Jay Homestead. We are, however, considering going back to using members' houses for this meeting. Liza commented that this may be a good idea although the member whose home is used may well be nervous of opening her home to so many, possibly critical eyes; on the other hand, such a venue may attract greater attendance.

Horticulture

Liza announced that the "snow drops" workshop has been rescheduled for January 9.

Civic Affairs & Conservation

Co-chair Ellen Conrad spoke to us about Hudson to Housatonic (H2H), an organization that supports the Pollinator Pathway, a grassroots initiative that works to establish pollinator-friendly habitat and food sources for bees, butterflies, hummingbirds and other pollinating insects and wildlife along a continuous corridor. Through the efforts of the Wilton Land Conservation Trust, the Norwalk River Watershed Association (NRWA), and other H2H members, the Pollinator Pathway works with public and private landowners to create a passageway of pesticide-free, native-planted habitats stretching from east to west from the Housatonic to the Hudson River. A number of communities in Fairfield County, as well as Pound Ridge, are current participants.

Ellen recommended that we get all members to participate. She said that Rod Christie, CEO Mianus River Gorge, could map Bedford. Nancy K said that the Bedford Conservation Board already has such a map available.

Ellen pointed to the desirability of multiple levels of participation within the community, among them our membership, Rusticus, schools, Caramoor, John Jay Homestead, to name a few. Liza suggested that whatever effort we embark on we start on a small scale and develop a template for our participation.

A special committee, Ellen said, will meet for an initial planning session on January 23. She wants 5 to 10 volunteers who are committed to the project to meet to define what needs to be done. They will bring in representative from Rusticus for a second meeting. Rusticus has yet to address the project. Liza will email Karen Simons who chairs the Conservation committee at Rusticus as well as her second in command. Ellen will include Branch Out in our plans as trees are crucial to the pollinator habitat. Some discussion addressed the types of plants that would be on the list of ones deemed acceptable. Caution was given to not make the criteria so restrictive that members are discouraged from participating. Mary pointed out the importance that plants grown in our gardens be attractive.

Ellen said that the solar array farm planned in upstate New York which we had planned to help plant with natives has had serious problems and no longer is an option. As a result of her

planning, she now has a large bag of seeds available to us for planting a pollinator habitat. Discussion ensued on the quality of the seeds (we don't want invasives), growing time (Ellen said some will not come up for four years) and the importance of not failing in our efforts.

Both Varner and Nancy V expressed concern that we not over commit. Varner pointed to our commitments to the Court House and John Jay gardens with a third, Caramoor's sunken garden.

Discussion turned to the ongoing invasives project. The Pound Ridge Invasives Project was singled out as an active, knowledgeable group. Carolynn Sears who heads the conservation board in Pound Ridge was suggested as some one who could provide guidance with our program.

Motion made by Nancy V that a subcommittee, evolving from the Branch Out! Committee, has permission and the support to develop a comprehensive program on eradicating invasive vines and to initiate the program by asking our own BGC members to participate." The motion was seconded by Carol and unanimously approved by hand vote by all present.

Susan Roos was suggested as a possible candidate to head the effort.

Project Review

Mary Kendrick has not received any formal applications for funding. While not wanting to discourage proposals, Liza asked her to let potential applicants know that they must submit theirs by February 1. Tina said that there were other pockets of money we might tap if a proposal for a project we might want to undertake be defined at a later date, such as the Caramoor project. Specifically, there are approximately \$32,000 in uncommitted funds held in our deposit account as well as \$50,000 in unencumbered endowment funds.

Carol brought up a request from the Katonah Museum of Art, where she sits on the Advisory Board, to assist in planting a garden. Varner suggested that they be included in the Pollinator Pathway.

Caramoor Project

Varner and Tina are to meet with Betsy Mitchell, garden designer, who is working with the Glascotts, to discuss replacing the sunken garden plantings at Caramoor with native plants.

Fund Raiser

Liza reported on the meeting she had had with co-chairs Lynda Morris and Holly Warshaw in early December. They are delighted that Fairlight Hall is once again being offered as an auction item.

Archives

Varner raised questions about our archives. For one, we just have received 1,000's of slides from the relatives of our former club president and member Ann McDuffie. Both storage and

review of the slides are issues. Virginia Maybank's barn which she has generously allowed us to use for storage, is damp and no longer appropriate for such use. Varner will look into pricing for renting more suitable storage facilities as well as look into digitizing records. Ellen suggested speaking with the GCA to find out how other clubs handle archive storage.

Website

Nancy Vincent outlined requirements for submitting requests to send paperless post invitations and emails to club members. Submissions must be written up and ready to go. Although she receives a few requests that meet these criteria, she does receive requests to get something out tomorrow with just a somewhat vague indication of what should be said. Liza will reinforce use of the procedure and insist that it be followed.

Meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted

Linda J. Merrill
Recording Secretary