

Bedford Garden Club
Executive Committee Meeting
116 Hook Road
January 5, 2017
9:00 a.m.

Attendance: Liza Clymer, Carol Bouyoucos, Joyce Corrigan, Mary Kendrick, Nancy Kronenberg, Heather Langham, Virginia Maybank, Linda Merrill, Varner Redmon, Nancy Vincent, Susan West, Tina Winchester

President

Liza Clymer

After calling the meeting to order, Liza announced that she would be attending our Zone III meeting, May 23 – 24 on Long Island. Our Zone Chairman, she said, has asked that we take photos at our workshops to share with the GCA, as well as post on our own website.

Liza and Nancy Kronenberg will be attending the GCA – NAL meeting in Washington, D.C. at the end of February. Nancy K said that we have one more spot available. Tina volunteered to attend.

In Treasurer Debbie Gourd's absence, Liza commented on the disappointing financial results of December's Greens Day. She does not ascribe blame and simply wants to ensure that future Greens Days meet their financial objectives. She will discuss with all involved. Otherwise, she felt that the meeting and wreath making had been a great success.

Horticulture

Virginia Maybank

A workshop is to be held January 25, 2017. The workshop will focus on house plants and their problems, particularly insect infestation; seed catalogs; and planting seeds for our May plant exchange and Zone III meeting.

Regarding this committee and others, Varner suggested that notices of workshops be sent to all members rather than just those who signed up for specific committees. Liza agreed, commenting that workshop participation should not be seen as exclusively for those who had signed up at the beginning of the year.

Virginia brought to our attention a winter lecture series being given by the New York Botanical Garden, the first being held in Ross Hall on January 26. The three-series lecture will focus on famous gardens: Chanticleer, Hermannshof and Great Dixter. Rather than posting the information on our website, Varner recommended that an email be sent to all members.

Conservation

Nancy Kronenberg

Nancy is scheduling a tour of the Bedford waste water treatment plant in February or March. She also will be holding a committee meeting in March to discuss plans to address tree and invasive issues.

Exhibitions

Wendy Cushman

In Wendy's absence, Liza reminded us of a January 26 workshop. Wendy plans to have a speaker who will demonstrate flower arranging techniques and provide assistance. Varner offered up her studio.

Visiting Gardens

Varner Redmon

Varner announced several trips in the planning stages:

- May – Tour in Central Park with different focus from trip of a couple of years before. Beth Sachs as well as Joyce have contacts with guides.
- June – Old Farm Nursery in Lakeville, CT.
Also, June 26 – 29, **Quatre Vents, Frank Cabot's garden in La Malbaie, Quebec**, being arranged by Wendy Cushman and Susan Burke. 20 person maximum. There will be a private tour one day and another visit on the following Open Day. Accommodations in quaint local inns.
- July – Willowwood Arboretum in Far Hills, NJ.
- August – nothing planned yet...but will work on it.
- September – Governor's Island.

Everyone agreed that our trips are truly special, but not enough of our members take advantage of them. The suggestion was made that we might have meetings at certain local gardens and nature preserves followed by a walk in the respective property. Among local venues mentioned were

- the Pound Ridge Reservation's Trailside Museum and wild flower garden. Nancy V piece regarding our conservation involvement over the years, including at the Reservation, for our website. Wendy Foulke, as our club historian, was mentioned as possibly preparing a talk about the wild flower garden and our involvement with it which she or Liza could present at a meeting.
- John Jay Homestead, where there is a perimeter walking trail highlighting the historic cultural and horticultural landscape. A group from the club went on a tour of the property a few years ago.
- Westchester Land Trust's Sugar Hill Farm Garden.
- Mianus River Gorge Preserve.

Along this same line of thinking, Nancy K said that the Conservation committee would be organizing a tour and walk in May in Lasdon Park, which Varner noted was the home of one of our former members.

Garden History and Design

Carol Bouyoucos

Carol is planning a spring workshop to provide guidance in the methodology of documenting and photographing our gardens. We will focus on one of our club member's gardens that exemplifies a well laid out garden. The Smithsonian has very strict guidelines, particularly for photography. For our club purposes, we do not have to follow all of their instructions, particularly not that for super high resolution of photos. The GCA's and Smithsonian's primary interest is in the hardscape of a garden with little emphasis on the plant material, except in extraordinary instances of a rare examples.

Carol said photographer Alison Shaw is holding a photography workshop on Nantucket, June 16 – 19, 2017. Nancy V will alert club members via an email.

Project Review

Mary Kendrick

Mary has received the one proposal from the Westchester Land Trust for their Sugar Hill Farm Garden on Harris Road that supplies fresh produce to area food pantries and soup kitchens. Adele will be requested to have it sent to all members of the Executive committee asking them to review and vote upon it by January 25.

Programs

Joyce Corrigan

Joyce recapped our up-coming programs: January 11 – Harriett Mays Powell, fashion designer editor and stylist, St. Matthews; February 1 - Jill Jonnes author of *Urban Forests, A Natural History of Trees and People in the American Cityscape*, Historical Hall; April 19 – Andrea Wulff, *Founding Gardeners*, John Jay Homestead; May 17 – Claudia West, *Planting in a Post-Wild World: Designing Plant Communities for Resilient Landscapes*, BGTC; June 14 – Annual Meeting (place to be announced).

Liza wants to have a special promotion for the February “tree talk” which she will coordinate with Nancy K. Varner brought up the topic of old growth forests, many of which are in the northeast U.S. Varner will provide Liza with the URL for a website which she had obtained from Beth and Sam Sachs.

As many of our programs and dates, as well as committee meetings, have changed since the program brochure was printed this past fall, rather than reprinting it, Carol will design a program with the revised schedule that will be emailed to members.

The committee discussed the practice of printing a program at the beginning of each year when speakers for some meetings may not have been engaged nor many committee schedules and workshops yet developed. The discussion focused on what should be included in a program and how changes should be accommodated. The subject will be discussed further at subsequent meetings.

Nominations

Nancy V brought up the issue of the need to form a nominating committee. Normally one is appointed in November by the President. If Liza stays on as President, as we hope she will, we have three officers whose terms expire this summer. We also need to propose four individuals to be Members-at-Large, two of whom should be longtime members and two who joined more recently. Regarding Members-at-Large, each may serve for more than one year. (Our blue book notes that the terms for all four current ones do not expire until June, 2018.)

Nancy V also raised the question of who is and is not a member. Liza will be addressing this and other issues regarding membership and membership requirements, along with possible by-law changes, with Policy Chairman Beth Sachs.

Fund Raiser

Liza asked Heather to serve as Chairman and she graciously accepted. Liza has spoken with Debbie about the timing of our financial requirements. Holding the fundraiser any time prior to the end of 2017 would be acceptable.

Meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Linda J. Merrill
Recording Secretary