

**Bedford Garden Club
Executive Committee Meeting
Home of Liza Clymer
201 Croton Lake Road
November 28, 2018
9:00 a.m.**

Attendance: Liza Clymer, Jayni Chase, Ellen Conrad, Wendy Cushman, Mary Finnegan, Wendy Foulke, Mary Kendrick, Nancy Kronenberg, Linda Merrill, Kim Morris, Varner Redmon, Holly Warshaw

Liza Clymer welcomed us all for the last executive committee meeting for 2018.

As Treasurer Tina Winchester was in London, Liza gave a limited report. Three members are still in arrears on their dues. One, who lives out of state now, may be encouraged to become an “affiliate”, freeing up needed space for another “active” member.

Programs

Nancy Kronenberg has had for some time an outstanding lineup of speakers engaged for the entire 2018/2019 year. After Greens Day, December 5, we have a program on “foraging” with Tama Matsukua at Bedford Historical Hall on January 16. This will be followed on February 13 with Martha Stewart who has graciously agreed to give a presentation on designing floral arrangements using flowers from one’s own garden. She has a book published on this subject.

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 plans to hold it at her barn, although we may need to find another location if Susan’s work to restore the barn is not completed.

Website

In Nancy Vincent’s absence, Liza led a brief discussion on developing a public landing page for our website. Other garden clubs have inquired about the absence of one for us. Nancy has been investigating what would be entailed. The committee also discussed what news should go out to our membership through Constant Contact and what should go on our website. Ellen brought up as an example news from and events sponsored by Bedford 2020, which we founded. Basically, Bedford 2020 events that are germane to our activities, might appropriately be placed on our website and certain other ones emailed to our membership. Ellen acknowledged that we do not want our website “junked-up” with a potpourri of extraneous information. Both the creation of a public landing page and guidelines for inclusion of information on our website as well as use of Constant Contact, will be subjects for further discussion.

Floral Design

Wendy Cushman told us of her plans to visit East Coast Wholesale Flowers to buy the wreathes we decorate on Greens Day and give to Northern Westchester Hospital and other community organizations. She, also, will buy smaller wreaths for us to purchase for ourselves, as well as ribbons, pine cones, and

other greens to adorn the wreaths to be made at the event. Members are encouraged to bring greenery, too. Wendy has identified members who have volunteered in the past to deliver the wreaths.

Wendy is planning to hold a floral design workshop this coming April with noted floral designer Claire Wong who would provide individual advice on our arrangements. Her fee is \$1,000 with flowers extra. The flowers, it was pointed out, could be charged pro rata to attendees. As a venue, Wendy has been considering Historical Hall. Varner suggested that we look into using Carmoor's greenhouse.

For our June annual meeting, Wendy plans another inhouse flower show following the success of last year's "bench class" flower show.

Garden History and Design

As Carol Bouyoucos was unable to attend this meeting, Varner was able to fill us in on the status of some of our members' gardens that are in various stages of documentation for the Smithsonian. She will check with Carol on the status of Pepe Maynard's garden. Regarding Susan Burke's and Denise Santomero's gardens, she thought that either Diane or Carol could photograph. Use of a drone should be considered. Perhaps Kim Morris could check to see if Ginnel Real Estate would allow their drone to be used or, possibly, Martha Stewart would offer up use of hers. The written documentation is not onerous, she said. The photography, Ellen added, is very specific and exacting, but the rest is easy. Varner also would like every member to document her own garden for the club and not for the Smithsonian, as has been discussed by the committee in previous meetings. As for other of our gardens that might be documented for the Smithsonian, Mary K suggested Martha's garden. While very special, it would not qualify as it has been frequently professionally photographed and publicized and, thus, excluded by Smithsonian rules.

Hostesses

For Greens Day, **Mary Finnegan** has asked a few members to participate, including Francine Walker, Allyson Pachios and Leslie Regan.

Membership

Liza led the discussion, in chairman Janet Robinson's absence. A few men who have ties to members and, seemingly, may have interest in joining the club, were mentioned. All present were enthusiastic about bringing in at least two men initially.

Caramoor Project

Varner introduced a project under consideration that would benefit Caramoor Center for Music and the Arts. She has been speaking with CEO Jeffery Hayden about major efforts underway at the Center to restore their 80 acres. Our efforts would focus on the sunken garden plantings. This would entail removing the dead boxwood and replacing the four smallish beds with native plants. We would commit only a year of our time, efforts and resources to this endeavor. The sunken garden is of particular significance to us as it was the built by one of our founders, Mrs. Frank Hunter Potter, when she and her husband owned the property in the first part of the last century. Nancy Kronenberg, who serves as a member of the Bedford Conservation Board, said that Caramoor is planting 95 trees on the property. They are working with a landscape architect with whom we would need to coordinate.

Project Review

Mary Kendrick told us that we have in hand two strong appeals for funding. She wondered if we might increase our budget for total funding from \$5,000 to \$6,000? Tina has indicated that we have sufficient funds available to increase certain budget line items.

The group agreed that any organization receiving funding from us needs to report back to us within 12 months and send photos. This information is important for us to be able to evaluate our funding decisions as well as to report to our membership on how their dues are spent for worthwhile purposes.

NAL

Liza announced that Robin Ashley will accompany her to the February meeting. Ellen Conrad will also attend in her capacity Co-Chair of the Conservation Committee.

2019 Fundraiser

Co-chair Holly Warshaw reported along with Liza who enthused on the June 15, 2019 event, "Celebrate on Mallard Lake" at the home of Deirdre and James Glascott. The setting is idyllic and she said we benefit greatly from Deirdre's experience as a hostess having hosted a number of large parties such as ours.

Liza asked that suggestions for silent auction items be conveyed to Holly. To encourage thinking on the subject, she passed around a list of items already committed. Art work from some of our members who contributed to our last fundraiser would be great. Regarding food, Holly will be contacting various members for specific contributions.

Announcements by our President

Liza announced that she would will be attending a luncheon at the Apawamis Club in Rye the following day and wondered if one of us would like to go with her. There were to be lots of plants for sale as well as gift items.

She reported along with a few others on the remarkable recovery of our dear member Daphne Root. A card will be brought to Greens Day for all to sign and send best wishes.

Meeting adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

Linda J. Merrill
Recording Secretary