

Bedford Garden Club
Executive Committee Meeting
201 Croton Lake Road, Katonah
December 13, 2017
9:30 a.m.

Attendance: Liza Clymer, Robin Ashley, Janet Conner, Wendy Cushman, Deirdre Glascott, Mary Kendrick, Nancy Kronenberg, Diane Lewis, Linda Merrill, Anita Stockbridge, Tina Winchester

Minutes of the November 1, 2017 Executive Committee Meeting

After a motion was made and seconded, the minutes of the November 1 meeting were unanimously approved by hand vote.

Treasurer's report

Tina Winchester presented the November financial report. She noted that dues had been collected from a few more members, leaving six members who have not yet paid. A discussion ensued later in this meeting (see "Membership", below) regarding how to deal with members still in arrears.

Greens Day, rather than netting \$1,200 as budgeted, showed a \$541 deficit which, Tina believes, will be adjusted to a loss in the \$300 range after a full accounting is done. A number of suggestions were made regarding changes that might be made for future, as noted below under "Greens Day". Regarding the loss, Tina suggested that we might simply budget a loss for the event for the coming year as much of the expense is for the wreaths we donate to the community.

As we are a 501(c)(3), Tina brought up questions she faces as Treasurer in composing letters to donors of silent auction items as well as our members for their donations to the club's charitable activities. Linda noted, as members, we need to know the portion of our dues that is deductible, as well as the deductibility of any other contributions, such as for our fund raiser this fall. Also, those who give above a certain amount (she thought \$250) need an acknowledgement letter from the club. Wendy will be discussing such requirements with her accountant. Tina is concerned with the time that may be required on her part to generate letters. She would appreciate assistance. Linda offered to help.

Greens Day

The event held at the Westmoreland Sanctuary was well attended and enjoyed by all. It was highlighted by a demonstration by Dana Worlock who made a stunning wreath from materials collected from her property. The wreath was auctioned off with proceeds given to the Sanctuary.

Discussion ensued on how Greens Day might be made better in future years both in terms of its financial success and satisfaction of participants. Wendy recommended that because of the complexity of the meeting a committee chair be appointed who would have sub-committees overseeing the various aspects of the event. Liza announced that next year Leslie Wortmann and Lindsay Matthews have agreed to serve as co-chairs. Suggestions and comments included:

- We need to have more merchandise in the boutique, particularly potted plants, such as paper whites.
- Robin volunteered to buy other holiday items for sale if she were to be informed of our budget far in advance.
- The wreaths for both the community and individuals were thought to have been too small.

Floral Design

Wendy Cushman said that, while she had nothing definite to report, she would like to have a workshop just prior to Easter. As Easter is early this year, on April 1, and she will be away, she would need to find someone to organize it as well as coordinate with Varner if her studio is to be used.

Conservation

Liza questioned the group as to whether the club should organize a table at Bedford 2020's "Climate Summit" on February 3, 2018 at the Fox Lane High School. In addition, Jayni and Chevy Chase will be hosting a dinner to benefit the organization. Liza will investigate further.

Programs

Liza reported, in Joyce Corrigan's absence. January 17, 2018 will find us at the Katonah Library where Kim Eierman, Founder of EcoBeneficial, will speak on the "Butterfly Effect".

We are excited to have engaged Chandler Burr as our speaker for our February 14, Valentine's Day, meeting. Mr. Burr is 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*. He, also, is known to be an engaging speaker. His fee is \$3,500, which is more than what we normally would agree to. To ameliorate the cost, we may invite Rusticus to participate with us for, if not half, at least part of his fee. Wendy suggested that Hopp Ground might also be approached. We will have the meeting at Caramoor. As they will not allow the public to be invited, we may instead have our April general meeting open to the public at which Janelle Robbins of the Bedford Audubon Society will speak about birds and their importance to plants, "The Birds and the Buds".

Project Review

Mary Kendrick reported that the Westchester Land Trust has submitted an application in behalf of the Mianus River Gorge Preserve ("MRG"). Several questioned why the Land Trust would apply in behalf of another organization, even though the Land Trust provides major financial support to the MRG. Janet Conner, who also is a Trustee of the MRG, commented that they also need money to study and help attack a hemlock crisis. Mary will speak with Executive Director Rod Christie regarding their priorities.

Anita brought up the many needs of the Marsh Sanctuary and requested advice in framing a proposal in their behalf. The sanctuary, which encompasses about 150 acres in Mt. Kisco, has suffered from lack of organization and funding, she said. They have made major progress in removing invasives and now need to replace with native plants and trees. They also need to address the decaying amphitheatre and rejuvenating the wildflower garden. Mary will send a template of a grant request to Anita that she might use. Robin suggested that they engage a grant writer; possibly one of the area's universities would have a graduate student who could be engaged on a pro bono basis. For the trees, the committee suggested that Branch Out, which we have funded with \$7,200, could be a source of expertise and money. As the trees would be planted along South Bedford Road, they would fit in with Branch Out's focus on street trees.

Mary said that the Executive Committee would select two or three of the proposals which would then be presented for vote by the entire membership. Mary along with several others voiced the opinion that the total amount allocated, \$3,000, should be increased.

Membership

Liza announced that the luncheon for new members, including the two who were admitted this fall, would be held in May, 2018.

Liza described her efforts to contact members who had not paid their dues. She read a letter that she has composed to go to the six members still in arrears, who, she noted, do not participate with committees or attend other club functions. The letter notes the nonpayment dues and lack of participation, giving the recipient until a date in January to pay or have her membership automatically forfeited. Comments were given and she will be sending another draft letter to us for further review before finalizing and sending the letter to the six.

The Committee discussed ways to make the club more accessible for those who do not seem to have the time to participate. One possibility, that had been discussed at previous meetings, would be to have some meetings held around the lunch hour or in the afternoon at 4:00p.m. or so, to see if those times might draw in members who do not participate currently.

Great Healthy Yard Project

Diane Lewis will be speaking next year before the National Affairs & Legislation Committee of the GCA. The GCA is particularly focused on water quality enhancement. They are asking their membership to take the "Great Healthy Yard Pledge" on the GCA website. Liza will ask Nancy Vincent to provide a link on our website for our members to record their pledges.

January Executive Committee Meeting

The next meeting of the Executive Committee is to be held at 9:30 a.m. at the home of Liza Clymer on Wednesday, January 10, 2018, rather than the 11th, as shown in our annual program booklet.

Meeting adjourned at 11:00pm.

Linda J. Merrill
Recording Secretary