

Bedford Garden Club
Executive Committee Meeting
413 Harris Road, Bedford Hills
February 12, 2018
9:30 a.m.

Attendance: Liza Clymer, Robin Ashley, Carol Bouyoucos, Jayni Chase, Wendy Foulke, Debbie Gourd, Nancy Kronenberg, Diane Lewis, Linda Merrill, Varner Redmon, Janet Robinson, Holly Warshaw, Tina Winchester

President's Greeting

Liza welcomed us to our meeting held Tina Winchester's lovely home. The meeting, originally scheduled for February 7, had had to be postponed because of the icy roads.

Bedford 2020 Climate Summit

Liza congratulated all involved in the tremendous success of the February Summit. She lauded our beautiful signage, designed by Carol Bouyoucos, and gorgeous table. She had brought the sign to display for us. Along with its exquisite graphic it enumerated the many ways in which the club contributes to the community.

Our table displayed books and handouts for a "backyard action plan", designed and compiled by Robin Ashley, that provided references to relevant websites. We were a popular destination for attendees. Joyce Corrigan is writing an article about our participation.

Jayni recounted a partial history of Bedford 2020 noting that its genesis went back to efforts of the BGC, particularly those of Ellen Conrad and Olivia Farr, along with the Bedford town board, to found the organization in 2009/2010. This year's Climate Summit attracted 700 attendees, among them about 20 from our Zone. Jayni said that several enthusiastic participants asked about the date for a similar gathering next year. There is nothing planned, as yet. The summit requires tremendous organizational efforts, and the time of the year probably not ideal, but another will definitely be in the making.

Treasurer's report

Tina Winchester presented the January, 2018 financial statement showing that we had paid the full price to engage Chandler Burr for his talk at our February 14 open meeting. We will receive partial reimbursement from Rusticus for their participation with us.

Membership

Liza reported three resignations. All were amicable; the former members simply did not have time at present to participate. All were cordially invited to reapply in the future at a time when they would be able to take advantage of the club's activities. All were offered an expedited readmission process. A few other members have not yet paid this year's dues, although promises have been made.

We have two prospective members with sponsors. With the aforementioned three resignations, another spot is available, although, as was pointed out by Liza and Janet, there is no reason why we shouldn't have a few openings left available.

The subject of rolling admissions was addressed. Although we accepted two new members this past fall, it was agreed by those present that, normally, it works best to admit members once annually in the spring. For this year's candidates, Janet recommended that we again have a cocktail reception for candidates, their sponsors and members of the executive committee. The format allows prospective members to get a better understanding of the activities of the club and to reinforce expectations for their participation, as well as to acquaint themselves with other club members.

Conservation & Civic

Jayni Chase said there was nothing new to report beyond the exceptional efforts of several of our members in

making the Climate Summit such a success.

Internships

Liza reported, in Tory Cox's absence. We were told that, usually, organizations apply directly to us, with Westmoreland Sanctuary and the Audubon Society being frequent applicants. Nancy suggested that we consider granting funding to the Town of Bedford Conservation Board for an intern to assist with the tree survey; others felt that our internship funding should not go to the State of NY but to a struggling, not-for-profit organization.

We have \$2,000 budgeted to be divided between two internships. Liza said that Westmoreland Sanctuary has requested \$2,000 for one intern, up from the \$1,000 we usually grant to them. Tina suggested that we bump up the amount. Discussion by the group focused on the amount. Robin, however, noted that an internship is a great resume builder, and both she and Carol noted that many interns do not get paid. The Town tree survey was singled out as an appropriate non-paying project for a high schooler.

Liza will discuss our comments with Tori. Varner pointed out that it would be important to make our decisions early in the year, in order that those seeking internships can get firm up their summer plans.

Motion Made: In view of the potential need to increase our budgeted amount the year, Varner moved that we allow flexibility to increase the internship budget to \$5,000, if needed. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Horticulture

Robin Ashley reported that the seed starting workshop at Hedgerow had gone very well, leaving us in good shape for May when our entries will be entered in competition at the May 15 – 17 Zone III meeting in Cooperstown.

Their next workshop is a "Rose Workshop" on February 28 at Robin's home. Ann Perkowski of Bedford's Lady Clippers will demonstrate pruning techniques. She is paid \$75 per hour for her services.

Zone III Meeting, 2018

Carol reminded us that we are late in applying for places to compete in the various events at the upcoming meeting. If we do not apply, we will be assigned. Carol Rice will represent us in the one floral arrangement competition.

Garden History & Design

Carol Bouyoucos told us that we have been delayed somewhat in editing the material submitted to the Smithsonian on Marna MacLean's Riverview Ranch, Wilson, WY, but are on top of the situation.

Visiting Gardens

Varner Redmon alerted us to the "Save the Dates" announcement that had recently been email to all members. The first, on May 16 to Jamaica Bay requires not only a response but a check to Tina. Without a check, one is not signed up, she said.

This will be followed by three other great tours this summer: June 20, PepsiCo Sculpture Garden; July 18, Roosevelt Island; and, August 15, Vegetable Gardens in Bedford. For the fall, Mary Kendrick is working on the logistics of what will be a wonderful Berkshire overnigher planned for September 26-27.

Programs

Liza reported in Joyce Corrigan's absence.

Noted perfume critic, journalist, museum curator and author Chandler Burr will be our speaker for the February 14, Valentine's Day meeting at Caramoor held jointly with Rusticus. We will have three officers attending from Zone III along with one from the GCA. After a book signing, Joyce will accompany him, our invited guests and one

of club members to lunch.

After our normal hiatus in March, the speaker for our April meeting will be from the Bedford Audubon Society. The speaker has yet to be announced, as our previously announced speaker, Janelle Robbins, just left her position as Executive Director to pursue another opportunity. The meeting will be held at their headquarters, ByLane Farm.

Our May plant exchange will be held at Tina's barn at 413 Harris Road rather than the BGTC.

In June, our annual meeting will be held at the John Jay Homestead, where, Liza pointed out, we benefit from one free meeting a year because of our services in maintaining the sundial garden. Varner recommended that we check first with Emily Grand, our member and Executive Director of Friends of JJH, to confirm the status of our use. Liza will ask Joyce to do so.

Other Issues

Liza reported that Mary Kendrick had a ticket she wanted to sell for the NYBG lecture on February 22 by Arne Maynard, celebrated garden designer, as part of their winter lecture series. A number of our members are attending and have plans to enjoy an excellent lunch together after the talk.

GCA Founders Fund Awards

Liza reminded us that we each need to email her with our selection of one of the three finalist's proposals for the GCA Founders Fund 2018 awards. Liza will tally our votes and convey our club's winning choice to the GCA.

Robin proposed that we look into developing our own major project as a way of bringing increased purpose and participation into the club. While we might not qualify for a GCA award, we should be able to find funding for a sustained effort.

Some suggestions for our involvement, included:

Carol – working with the Marsh Sanctuary to combine training to prospective landscapers in environmentally sound practices.

Varner and Robin – taking on a project that would complement the work of Neighbors Link of Mt. Kisco.

Liza – Bedford Correctional Facility for Women for which Wendy Cushman has made significant contributions.

Jayni – developing school gardens.

As an initial step, Liza asked Robin, Carol and Jayni, and will ask Vicki Morris, to brainstorm and come up with a recommendation(s) to present to the committee.

Minutes of the January 10, 2018 Executive Committee Meeting

After a motion was made and seconded, the minutes of the January 10 meeting were unanimously approved by hand vote.

April 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, April 4, 2018.

Meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Linda J. Merrill
Recording Secretary