

**Bedford Garden Club  
Executive Committee Meeting  
Home of Liza Clymer  
201 Croton Lake Road  
February 6, 2019  
9:30 a.m.**

**Attendance:** Liza Clymer, Robin Ashley, Wendy Cushman, Debbie Gourd, Mary Kendrick, Nancy Kronenberg, Heather Langham, Cynthia Mas, Linda Merrill, Kim Morris, Varner Redmon, Janet Robinson, Susan Roos, Tina Winchester, Dana Worlock

**President Liza Clymer**, after welcoming us all, presented us with a full agenda.

### **Treasurer's Report**

**Tina Winchester** reported that there had been little activity over the prior month.

In March, we will start our budget negotiations for the 2019 – 2020 year with the final budget prepared in advance of the June Annual meeting at which our membership will vote. She requested that committee chairs send their expenses to her promptly.

### **Programs**

**Nancy Kronenberg** said that we would have Martha Stewart's beautiful new book *Martha's Flowers* available at a 40% discount for at her presentation on February 13 at St. Matthews. The book contains gorgeous photographs by Kevin Sharkey, EVP and Executive Editorial Director, Decorating, and Executive Creative Director, Merchandising for Martha Stewart Living Omnimedia, Inc., who will accompany her to our meeting.

In discussing our April 17 General Membership meeting, Wendy said that our plan to hold it at Susan Burke's barn are still a bit up in the air due to construction delays. We will wait until early March to make a decision as to whether instead to use St. Matthews.

### **Nominating Committee**

**Kim Morris** announced that all three of the executive positions subject to term expirations had been selected by the Nominating Committee and two of the four Members-At-Large had been identified and had confirmed their interest. Once the member-at-large positions have been selected and affirmed, Nancy Vincent will be asked to send a ballot with the candidates to our entire membership for their ratification. The officers nominated include:

- President – Nancy Kronenberg
- First Vice President – Mary Finnegan
- Corresponding Secretary – Tori Cox (our current CS who has agreed to another two-year term)

### **Horticulture**

**Robin Ashley** and **Dana Worlock** reported on the success of the "snow drops" workshop on

January 9. All 10 attendees thoroughly enjoyed the session and have ordered bulbs.

Next up, on February 27, Dana will host a workshop at Hedgerow: Hedgerow Gin - the idea being that one takes rose hips, juniper berries, currants and the like from bushes growing wild in a hedgerow to flavor alcohol!

The two said that the “baby” plants we were growing for entry in Zone III competition and for our plant exchange in May are all coming along well.

### **Civic Affairs & Conservation**

In the absence of co-chairs Jayni Chase and Ellen Conrad, Liza reported. The Pollinator Pathway is still in its beginning stages. She along with Susan Roos had attended a recent meeting on the subject at the Bedford Hills train station.

At the up-coming meeting at St. Matthews, Liza will provide our membership with an introduction to our plans to participate in the region-wide project to develop a Pollinator Pathway throughout Bedford. Robin suggested that we may want to place an overriding emphasis on this in our activities over the following few years. Nancy recommended, however, that we not overemphasize one theme, but have some balance in our programs. Tina, who has been combing through our archives, said that our predecessors who founded the club referred to native plants as wildflowers. Varner echoed that the preservation and propagation of wildflowers was the major impetus to founding our club. Robin then suggested, to the delight of all, that next year’s theme be “Go Wild”.

The key people in charge of our Pollinator Pathway project have been identified. Regarding the invasive vine eradication portion of the project, Liza suggested that now was the time to mark vines with green tape so they will be easily identifiable as they begin to grow in the spring.

### **Branch Out!**

**Heather Langham** said that she and co-chair Virginia Maybank had reviewed and up-dated their mission statement. The initial emphasis on street trees was an aesthetic one, to beautify the community. It will now be focused on promoting biodiversity and the pollinator habitat. She recommended that we each look at an excellent podcast, “In Defense of Plants: a Design Challenge for our the Planet”. Liza will ask Nancy Vincent to email our membership about it.

They have formed sub-committees to address the various facets to achieve the new mission:

- Invasives, headed by Susan Roos
- Planting, to be coordinated with Chris Burdock, Town Supervisor. Nancy said that she was unsure as to whether the monies needed were yet available
- Plant saplings
- Tree planting along roads on private properties
- Formation of an education committee and tree event for the community
- Up-date the Bedford 2020 website

Varner and Robin both reminded Heather that her committee should take care not to overlap

with Civic & Conservation's activities. Heather said that she would work with Ellen and Jayni to coordinate their activities.

### **Floral Design**

**Wendy Cushman** told us that the GCA has recommended that member clubs separate this activity into two committees: Floral Design and Flower Shows. Wendy is in agreement with this distinction.

Wendy asked if her committee would be responsible for doing the flowers for our June Fund Raiser? Liza wanted to consult with our hostess Deirdre Glascott, as she will likely have her own thoughts on floral arrangements. Varner also pointed out that the arrangements for the event would not be a responsibility of Floral Design.

Wendy discussed the April 24 workshop she is planning at which noted floral designer Claire Wong will provide us with guidance. She, also, asked if we might include "bring a vase" where members will bring vases to exchange with our up-coming Plant Exchange? Tina said that they had found lots of vases when sorting through our belongings in Virginia's barn that could be offered.

### **Archives**

In the absence of a chair for this activity, Varner and Tina have been doing yeoman's work in sorting through the massive amount of records of the club stored in Virginia Maybank's barn. Varner has investigated and found that it would cost approximately \$1,500 a year to store archives locally in a hall closet size container. Tina generously offered instead our use of the upstairs of her barn for storage.

The two have separated out slides and photos to be digitalized. Nancy Vincent has requested that minutes all be digitalized, too. Varner agreed and said that they were placing priority on perishable materials.

Varner recommended that we identify from our membership someone to serve as an Archivist, a person in charge of historical records. At this time, we are dealing with a mess and a huge project, she said. Liza asked her for suggestions as to whom might fill the role.

### **BGC History**

Tina told us that there are four volumes on the history of the club ending in 2006. We need to identify one of our members to write up the following 15 years. The person filling the position should be able to write well, as well as have been an active participant with the club during the period.

### **Membership**

**Janet Robinson** announced two new candidates for membership: Caroline Black and Nancy Durst. As we have two more spots available, Janet and Liza encouraged us to put forward

others, with the caveat that all supporting letters would need to be submitted by April 1. Liza was asked as to whether she would give a cocktail party for the nominees, their proposers and officers. Once the new members have been voted in, Janet will hand over responsibility for them to Seedling chair Heather Langham to arrange a luncheon with the Seedlings, certain officers and committee chairs.

### **Hostesses**

Liza has given chair **Mary Finnegan** names of two members to provide refreshments for our February meeting at St. Matthews.

### **Project Review**

**Mary Kendrick** has received two applications for funding. The first was presented by Robin for the Friends of Hilltop Hanover Farm & Environmental Center, Inc. They are requesting \$4,375. Shanyn Siegel, Director of Hilltop who is well known to us having spoken before us at our October 17, 2018 meeting. The objective of the project is to establish a native plant nursery that will use wild-collected seeds to produce plants that are optimally adapted to the lower Hudson Valley. **Motion** made by Varner to provide the requested \$4,375 to Hilltop. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved by hand vote by those present.

The second proposal was presented by Varner and Tina on behalf of Caramoor Center for Music and the Arts to design and install a native plant, formal garden to replace the current plantings in the "Sunken Garden". The project is of particular interest to our club as the garden was originally installed in 1912 by the first owner of the estate, Mrs. Frank H. Potter, the organizer and first president of the Bedford Garden Club. Garden designer Betsy Mitchell, who was introduced to us by Deirdre Glascott, has been working with Varner and Tina on the initial planning.

The Caramoor project as defined would require funding from the BGC of \$10,000. The question was raised as to whether the funds should come from Project Review, or another club source. Historically, monies used for our own projects, such as the John Jay Sundial Garden and the Bedford Courthouse Garden, have been funded separately from Project Review; projects proposed and implemented by outside organizations utilized Project Review.

**Motion** made and seconded to provide funding in the amount of \$10,000 for the installation of a Native Plant Garden at Caramoor. The project was unanimously approved by hand vote by those present.

Tina has suggested that the Caramoor project, with its many connections to the community, might form the seeds of a GCA Founders Fund Project in the years ahead.

Linda asked that a report on the use of our funds be provided by each of last year's two Project Review fund recipients. Mary will make the request of both.

### **Website**

Nancy Vincent had created a public website page a copy of which was circulated for the

committee's review. We would need another name for this website, as the Bedford Garden Club name is already taken by the Bedford, Massachusetts garden club.

### **Publicity**

Liza said that the Bedford Record Review has expressed an interest in doing an article on our club. Comments were made that it would be best if one were to be written to have the main subject be one of our projects, such as the Pollinator Pathway, and to give equal weighting to Ruticus in the same article. A piece is being prepared by the Record Review on the talk Martha Stewart is to give on February 13.

### **Fund Raiser**

Liza reported that all was going well with planning. They may try to pre-sell a few auction items.

### **Founders Fund**

Liza requested that each of us review and vote on the three projects presented by the GAC and written-up in their winter edition of the ***Bulletin*** and website. Our votes are to be submitted to Liza.

### **Minutes**

The minutes of the January 2, 2019 Executive Committee meeting were approved.

Meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted

Linda J. Merrill  
Recording Secretary