

Bedford Garden Club  
Executive Committee Meeting  
116 Hook Road  
February 8, 2017  
9:00 a.m.

**Attendance:** Liza Clymer, Carol Bouyoucos, Kirk Ferguson, Wendy Foulke, Deirdre Glascott, Debbie Gourd, Lisa Hennessy, Mary Kendrick, Nancy Kronenberg, Heather Langham, Virginia Maybank, Linda Merrill, Janet Robinson, Adele Talty, Susan West, Tina Winchester

**President**

Liza Clymer

After welcoming us all, Liza called upon Treasurer, Debbie Gourd.

Debbie presented the January, 2017 financial statement as well as the proposed budget worksheet for 2017-2018, with budget vs. actual year to date for the 2016-2017 year. Committee chairmen are to estimate expenses for the coming year and, where appropriate, income for their respective committees. The budget will be discussed and finalized at our April meeting. The budget will guide us in calculating the amount that we need to raise at our fall club benefit party.

The current year's budget vs. actual year-to-date, shows three noteworthy discrepancies:

- Green's Day, normally a fund raiser, resulted in an approximate \$100 loss rather than a budgeted \$1,200 profit. To address short falls in the future, Liza said that the major change will be that we will not have an outside speaker.
- Program expenses are already at the budgeted amount for the full year. Liza will ask Joyce to keep an eye on these to look for ways to economize as much as possible without sacrificing the high quality of our programs.
- Our \$1,500 contribution this fall to the John Jay Homestead was not in the budget.

**Horticulture**

Virginia Maybank

Virginia recapped the results of the January 25, 2017 workshop at which 13 club members (and, subsequently three others) planted seeds for the plant exchange at the May Zone III meeting.

On March 29, Virginia will hold a pruning workshop at 10:00 a.m. at her green house with pruning professional Ann Perkowski, co-founder of Lady Clippers in Bedford, providing instruction.

Virginia brought to our attention a number of up-coming lectures and garden events sponsored by other organizations:

On January 26, Virginia and Tina attended the first of a three part lecture series on three renowned gardens being given by the New York Botanical Garden Hall. The first focused on Chanticleer. The next, on February 23, a presentation about Hermannshof will be followed by the last lecture, on March 30, on Great Dixter.

Native Plant Sale, Westchester Community College, April 29. While the quality of the various plants sold may vary, the venue provides access to some otherwise difficult to find species. She recommended that we place orders in advance if we want to make sure that we can get a certain plant. Otherwise, she suggested we just go. The website, she said, is phenomenal. Debbie suggested that we might want to order a few plants on line for our club plant sale in May; Virginia was concerned that we might not get good specimens. Rather than putting the sale information on our website, an email will be sent to members advising them of the sale and providing the URL.

The Cornell Cooperative Extension is sponsoring two lectures in our area this spring: Anne Cleves Symmes, Horticulturist for the Beatrix Farrand Garden Association will be giving a talk at St. Matthews March 8 and Lorraine Ballato, horticulturist and garden author, a hydrangea lecture at the John Jay Homestead on May 17, 10:00 a.m. to noon. (Unfortunately, this is the day of our meeting and plant exchange.)

### **Conservation**

Nancy Kronenberg

On March 7, the conservation committee has scheduled a tour of Bedford's Water Treatment Plant (limited to 20), 215 Cross River Road, Katonah. 11 members have signed up to date. Another invitation will be mailed out and, if spaces are still available, she will offer them to members of the Bedford Conservation Committee. She also will be holding a committee meeting in March to discuss plans to address tree and invasive issues.

Nancy is planning for us to visit Lasdon Park and Arboretum in late May, when the trees are budding out.

Nancy advised us of a grant application to the State of NY being prepared by Fred Pollack, a member, as is she, of the Bedford Conservation Committee. The grant, which is being offered by the DEC through its Cost Share Grant program, is to provide support and assistance to communities to create healthy urban and community forests. The timing for the proposal is tight and the cost of the preparatory work, in the \$10,000 range for GPS mapping, more than we can commit to at present. It is more realistic for us to encourage Fred and find ways to work with him should he be successful. Heather suggested that even if the grant proposal is unsuccessful, we may want to investigate as to whether the town would partner with us in a tree planting effort.

### **GCA and Zone III Annual Meetings**

Liza will be attending the May 4-7 GCA Annual meeting in Baltimore as well as Zone III meeting on Long Island, May 23 – 24.

### **Visiting Gardens**

Varner Redmon (absent)

Not all of the 20 spots available have been reserved for the June 26 – 29 visit to Quatre Vents, Frank Cabot's garden in La Malbaie, Quebec. Liza will check with Wendy Cushman on the exact number of reservations that have been made. The trip will be very special, a great opportunity for anyone who can go.

### **Garden History and Design**

Carol Bouyoucos

Carol is meeting with GCA representatives to discuss our plans to document and photograph our

gardens. Lisa noted the very strict Smithsonian requirements, particularly for photography.

### **Project Review**

Mary Kendrick

The 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 has been accepted by vote of our membership. Mary will call them with the good news and then instruct Debbie to send the \$3,000 check.

### **Membership**

Janet Robinson

We have four prospective members, but no paperwork has yet been submitted. Janet needs to have applications and letters by April 1 for discussion and vote at our committee meeting in April.

### **Fund Raiser**

Heather Langham and Leslie Wortmann, co-chairmen

“Flower Power” will be the title of our September 23, 2017 fund raiser. Heather said that plans are proceeding apace. Carol will design the program, using as its cover design a painting being donated by Lisa Ghriskey for the silent auction. Cynthia Mas will be in charge of the silent auction; Denise Santomero, catering; Deirdre Glasscott, bar. Heather wants to keep the budget as low as possible. She would like members to bring things, like we have before. We may want to purchase a few of the big-ticket items so that no one will think that her food contribution makes up for support she might otherwise give. We may have a professional chef coordinate the preparation and presentation. Heather asked us all to email her any ideas for silent auction items. Liza said theatre, concert and sporting tickets always sell well.

### **GCA Annual Founders Fund Award**

Our vote is due April 1, 2017 for one of the three projects selected by the Founders Fund Committee from civic projects proposed by member clubs. The three projects are described in the Winter 2017 *GCA Bulletin*. Liza will ask Nancy Vincent to disseminate the information to be voted on by club members by March 15.

### **Programs**

Joyce Corrigan (absent)

Our next general membership meeting on April 19 will be held at the John Jay Homestead with author Andrea Wulff, *Founding Gardeners*, as our speaker. The meeting is open to the public and sponsored, along with us, by the Homestead, Rusticus, the Herb Society and Hopp Ground. All five organizations will share in the expense of Andrea's fee (\$3,000) and travel expense. In answer to the question from Debbie about the cost to us, Liza believes that our share will be less than \$1,000. Andrea will be staying with Beth and Sam Sachs as their guest.

We may want to invite members of a few garden clubs in the area, such as Millbrook, Rye (two clubs) and Greenwich, that include us with invitations to certain events that they sponsor. Concern was voiced that there might not be enough seats, but as the room holds 125 and few people are likely to attend from neighboring clubs, the feeling expressed was that there should not be a capacity problem.

Heather said we should be preparing a press release for the program and getting the information in the *Bedford Record Review*. Liza will discuss this with Joyce. Adele will send a Paperless Post invitation just to our membership. Carol is doing one and the same for the Homestead.

**April 5, 2017 Executive Committee Location**

As she will have just recently moved, Liza asked that one of the Committee members host the April meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Linda J. Merrill  
Recording Secretary