

Bedford Garden Club
Executive Committee Meeting
56 Indian Hill Road, home of Lisa Hennessy
April 5, 2017
9:00 a.m.

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

President

Liza Clymer

Liza welcomed all to our meeting at the home of Lisa Hennessy who had graciously invited the committee to meet at her lovely home.

Treasurer

Debbie Gourd

Debbie presented the combined February and March, 2017 financial statement as well as the proposed budget for 2017-2018, with budget vs. actual year to date for the 2016-2017 year.

Debbie highlighted a few items on the current financial statement:

- We experienced an outstanding month for dues collection, with \$2,200 collected, representing for a few members multiple years, primarily as a result of Liza's efforts.
- The June Quebec trip has generated \$8,372 in revenues. The corresponding disbursement had yet to be made.
- Under disbursements, \$3,000 was donated to the Westchester Land Trust as previously proposed by Project Review and agreed upon by the Committee

The 2017-2018 budget will be finalized at our May Executive Committee meeting. The worksheet has been filled in with input from the respective committee chairs. Line items of note were discussed, as follows:

- **Dues.** 2016-2017, year-to-date exceeds budget by \$2,155 due in large part to the above mentioned collection of dues owed from prior years. The new budget will continue to show a normalized amount of \$21,000.
- **Green's Day.** The budget will remain at \$1,200, the same as for the current year, rather than the loss actually experienced which was the result, primarily, of the cost of hiring a speaker. The general plan for 2017 will involve a focus once again on wreath making and the sale of popular items including bulbs, a few ornamental things such as miniature boxwoods and the like. Subcommittees may be assigned to deal with the various aspects of the boutique and program.
- **Ways and Means.** Debbie will back into this number which represents one half of the amount that will need to be raised at our fall fund raiser.
- **Program.** Expenses are already at the budgeted amount for the full year. Several suggestions were made for minimizing the cost in the future while maintaining the high quality of presentations we are enjoying this year. Liza suggested that we may want to consider not having as many outside speakers. Nancy V pointed to the many good speakers who belong to the GCA; their services may be employed for the price of a donation. She added that there are wonderful speakers available at

the NY Botanical Garden where a speaker will be provided at no extra cost simply by scheduling a meeting there. Varner commented that if we hire a particular speaker at a high price for one program we can offset it with economies at others.

- **Awards.** We have exceeded the budgeted \$400. Lisa said to budget the same amount for the coming year and the committee plans to stay within the budgeted amount.
- **John Jay Homestead Gardens.** Maintenance will continue to be budgeted for \$1,500, although only a small portion has been used to date. Many improvements are needed. Heather described some, including: the repair of all three gates; trimming of the privet hedge which entails the work of 3 pruners over 4 days; a new fountain and water system (our \$1,500 contribution, in conjunction with the November, 2016, dinner at which the club was honored, will help pay for this); and tackling the persistent weed problem. Leslie Wortmann is in contact with Varner regarding the gardens.
- **Branch Out.** Our tree initiative will be budgeted for \$2,000 vs. \$0 this current year. Virginia said that we likely will be addressing the need for tree replacement along the road by Sunnyfield.
- **Civic Contributions.** The \$200 line item for "Hollister House" was questioned. It had been added when George Shoellkopf had spoken to the club. Should it be \$100 or 0?

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Horticulture

Virginia Maybank

Virginia spoke of the great success of the March 29, 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. Those of us in attendance echoed her enthusiastic review.

The April 12 workshop will be cancelled.

The plant exchange planned for our May 17 meeting will most likely be cancelled in order to focus on our speaker, Claudia West, *Planting in a Post-Wild World: Designing Plant Communities for Resilient Landscapes*. Virginia suggested that we instead do a digital plant exchange, as we have done with success in the recent past. She will see that this is announced and implemented.

Programs

Joyce Corrigan

Our next general membership meeting on April 19 will be held at the John Jay Homestead with author Andrea Wulff, *Founding Gardeners*, speaking. The meeting is open to the public and sponsored, along with us, by the Homestead, Rusticus, the Herb Society and Hopp Ground. We, along with the other organizations will pay \$500 each. Debbie will send a check to the Homestead. Joyce will introduce Andrea and will arrange a tour of the Homestead for her. Andrea will be staying with Beth and Sam Sachs as their guest.

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The capacity of the ballroom where the event will be held is 125, Heather believes. She said that the State is very strict on adherence to the maximum number. Adele said that we had a count currently in the 40-45 range and will send just one more reminder to our membership. Liza asked Adele to keep Executive Director Emily Grand advised of our attendees. Joyce had been planning to run an ad in the *Bedford Record Review*, but in view of our expectation of attendance, Carol advised that she not do so.

Conservation

Nancy Kronenberg

The March 7 tour of Bedford's Water Treatment Plant was very informative and appreciated by all who attended. The next event will be a tour of the Lasdon Arboretum on a yet to be announced day in May.

Diane Lewis will arrange. Nancy also will be holding a committee meeting to discuss our continuing plans to remove invasives.

Exhibitions

Wendy Cushman

We had discussed at a previous meeting having Livia Cetti, the paper flower artist who spoke on Greens Day, come to a workshop at Varner's studio on May 2. Wendy will check with Varner as to whether this has been arranged.

The trip to Quebec to Les Jardins de Quatre-Vents in June has been fully subscribed. We discussed adding in a small tax deductible amount to the price of this and other trips arranged by the club. Every one present agreed that a surcharge was a good idea.

Visiting Gardens

In Varner's absence, Liza suggested that we all refresh our memories by looking at the schedule that Varner has already published online.

Membership

Janet Robinson

Janet read the proposers' letters for all four candidates for membership:

- Cynthia Mas for Francine Walker
- Beth Sachs for Dana Worlock
- Nancy Kronenberg for Susan Roos
- Robin Ashley for Beth Crowell

A motion was made and all four candidates were unanimously approved by hand vote. Janet was lauded for a job well done. The cocktail reception for candidates in February at Liza's temporary home was also credited as being a highly effective and enjoyable way of introducing the candidates.

Seedlings

Deirdre Glascott

Deirdre will be arranging a luncheon for the candidates, their sponsors and certain others at the BGTC on May 3 immediately following the Executive Committee meeting. Janet will provide Deirdre with names of the seconders and contact information for our new seedlings.

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GCA and Zone III Annual Meetings

Liza will be attending the May 4-7 GCA Annual meeting in Baltimore as well as the Zone III meeting in Southside, Long Island, May 23 – 24. Wendy C agreed to accompany her to the GCA meeting. Liza will ask another member to attend the Zone III meeting on Long Island.

GCA Annual Founders Fund Award

Liza announced, in Mary Kendrick's absence, that our membership had voted for the "Healthy Bee Garden", one of the three projects selected by the Founders Fund Committee from civic projects proposed by member clubs. The final tally for all participating clubs had not been announced.

Long-time Members who do not participate in Club activities

Nancy V introduced the subject as it concerns not only the number of new member we can accommodate but also the cost of the \$65 in dues we must pay to the GCA for each member. Our By-

laws state that membership will be terminated for any member who has not paid her dues after two notices have been sent. Some of the members involved have made major contributions to the club in which case it was felt that a tribute could be written to that member to put in the yearbook, with a copy to send to her family.

2017 Annual Meeting

Liza can secure the Westmoreland Sanctuary for our annual meeting on June 15. Heather suggested that we could instead use the Homestead. Liza asked her to inquire. Wendy will have flower arrangements made for an inhouse flower show. Virginia suggested that, if we use the Homestead, we hold the reception and lunch in the garden, followed by our annual meeting in the ballroom.

Fund Raiser

Heather Langham and Leslie Wortmann, co-chairmen

Heather displayed Lisa Ghriskey's beautiful painting which will be used for the cover of the program as well as be auctioned off along with several other artworks created by members. Carol is designing the program. Heather said that the co-chairs in charge of committees for all aspects of the event are making excellent progress. Heather is working with club historian, Wendy Foulke, to piece together all of the major accomplishments of the club over the last 10 years to be set forth in the program. The task is proving formidable, as the pages from our respective yearbooks recording such information do not seem to have been archived.

A "save the date" for the September 23 event will be sent out using Lisa's painting.

Other Matters

Carol and others discussed the changes in discounts offered by local garden centers. She will confirm the current discount policy with each provider and issue new cards to our membership.

Liza introduced "Planting" as likely to be our club theme next year.

Meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

Linda J. Merrill
Recording Secretary