

Bedford Garden Club  
Executive Committee Meeting  
201 Croton Lake Road, Katonah  
May 3, 2017  
9:30 a.m.

**Attendance:** Liza Clymer, Joyce Corrigan, Wendy Cushman, Wendy Foulke, Debbie Gourd, Lisa Hennessy, Mary Kendrick, Nancy Kronenberg, Virginia Maybank, Linda Merrill, Janet Robinson, Anita Stockbridge, Adele Talty, Nancy Vincent, Tina Winchester

**President**

Liza Clymer

Liza welcomed all to our meeting at her most wonderfully restored home.

**Treasurer**

Debbie Gourd

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

She highlighted a few items on the current financial statement:

- \$400 in dues was collected, bringing all members' dues current with the exception of one who has promised to pay her dues shortly.
- Program expenses for the year now exceed budget by over \$2,000. The \$2,322 April expense relates primarily to Andrea Wulff who spoke at the John Jay Homestead in April. Debbie said we are still waiting upon the Herb Society and the Homestead to pay their share of her expense. Included in our expense figure is \$1,200 for Andrea's travel, lodging and incidental expenses. We had expected our partners in the presentation to pay their share. Joyce will follow-up with the other organizations. The 2017-2018 budget was reviewed prior to finalization and approval. Line items of note were discussed, as follows:
  - **Program.** As noted above, expenses exceed the budgeted amount for the full year, although we should recoup a large part from partner organizations associated with the April program.
  - **Photography.** A line item expense had not been included. Anita suggested that she will want to hold a workshop which could be led by Carol Bouyoucos, as well as obtain an outside speaker for a general membership program. The latter would entail a fee. \$500 was written in as amount that it was felt should more than cover such an expense.
  - **Ways and Means.** Debbie had backed into this number which represents one half of the amount that will need to be raised at our fall fund raiser. With the addition of \$500 for the photography committee, the amount was raised to \$15,650 from \$15,150, increasing the total needed to be raised to \$31,300 which would cover two years of our expenses.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the 2017-2018 budget, as presented, with the \$500 addition for the photography committee. The budget was unanimously approved by hand vote by all present. The budget will be presented to the general membership for vote at the June 14 Annual Meeting.

**Minutes of the April 5, 2017 Executive Committee Meeting**

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the April meeting with minor corrections and given unanimous approval by hand by those present.

## **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 will accompany her to both meeting. Debbie asked that they get their expenses to her before our fiscal yearend.

The Club has been asked to provide a couple of centerpieces for the Saturday, May 6 dinner. Wendy has sent a request to her committee.

## **Horticulture**

Virginia Maybank

As she will be away in May, Virginia has cancelled the plant exchange planned for our May 17 meeting. We will instead do a digital plant exchange. This will also allow members with significant numbers of plants to offer them without having to disturb the plantings before they are spoken for. Anita said that she felt that a real plant exchange was important, allowing us to see the actual plant product. Virginia said that would be fine, but someone other than she would need to organize it.

For the May Zone meeting, mentioned above, Wendy C will take six plants to be entered in the competition for which the theme is “drought tolerant plants”. The plants must be brought to Wendy labeled with their common and Latin names at least 10 days in advance of the May 23 meeting. Among the criteria used in judging, plants grown from cuttings or seeds are rated highest. Virginia said that several members will have entries.

## **Programs**

Joyce Corrigan

Joyce relayed her recent conversations with Claudia West, *Planting in a Post-Wild World: Designing Plant Communities for Resilient Landscapes*, the speaker for our May general membership meeting. When the subject of compensation recently arose, Joyce suggested a modest amount as her compensation. Claudia stated that her speaking fee would be \$1,250 plus hotel, travel expenses (thought to be fairly minimal as she would travel by her own car from Maryland), et cetera. We have the option, Joyce said, to cancel her appearance at our May meeting and try to rebook her for a fall program when we could work her fee into the coming year’s budget. Various opinions were expressed, but the consensus was that Joyce should contact her and agree to her fee for the coming meeting. Regarding lodging, Liza graciously offered up her home. Debbie also noted that until Andrea Wulff’s speaking engagement we had never paid for a hotel room for a speaker.

Nancy V reminded us that as a 401 (c)3, we must give a large portion of our money away to causes related to our mission; this requirement places a limit on what we spend on our programs. As the John Jay meeting was open to the public, this particular meeting fulfilled our responsibility to the public. In view of the success of this meeting, and the ability to cost share with other clubs, we may want to have a few more meetings of this type.

Our June annual meeting will be held at the John Jay Homestead rather than at a member’s home. There will be no cost for the facility. Heather arranged for the accommodation. Members will be invited to arrive at 11:30 a.m. with a guided walk through the Sundial Garden followed by tea and finger sandwiches on the porch. Varner Redmon will be asked to lead the garden tours. The annual meeting will follow at 1:00 p.m. in the ballroom. Wendy C and Liza will arrange for an inhouse flower show, using our pedestals which Virginia stores for us in her barn. Anita’s suggestion to include displays of

members' vegetables was well received.

### **Conservation**

Nancy Kronenberg

Diane Lewis is in charge of arranging a tour of the Lasdon Arboretum on a yet to be announced day in May. Nancy also will be holding a committee meeting May 9 to discuss our continuing plans to remove invasives. She also brought to our attention that there are wild morel mushrooms that are growing on many of our properties now that can be safely identified and picked.

Wendy F alerted the Committee to a trail walk in Mianus River Gorge Preserve led by Rod Christy from 10:00 a.m. to noon this Saturday, May 6. One must reserve ahead to participate.

### **Exhibitions**

Wendy Cushman

The trip to Quebec to Les Jardins de Quatre-Vents in June has been fully subscribed.

### **Visiting Gardens**

In Varner's absence, Mary said that 19 had signed up for the May 16 guided walk in Central Park. Then, on June 6, a group will travel to Old Farms Nursery in Lakeville, CT, with its acres of gorgeous display gardens. There are many other nurseries and shopping opportunities in the area. She suggested that those who may want to visit some after lunch arrange separately for the extra visits.

### **Membership**

Janet Robinson

Janet announced that Kirk Ferguson had requested that her membership status be changed from "Active" to "Sustaining". As our By-Laws require a vote by the Committee a motion to allow the status change requested was made and seconded with unanimous approval given by those present.

Pat Boykin, who now lives in South Carolina, has resigned.

Janet will coordinate with Liddy Baker who is our liaison with the GCA to identify each of our members along with her category of membership to make sure that we are paying no more than required in dues.

### **Seedlings**

Deirdre is arranging a luncheon for the four new seedlings, their sponsors, chairmen of standing committees along with Liza as President and Mary as 1<sup>st</sup> VP. The luncheon will be held at the BGTC on May 17 immediately following the general membership meeting. Adele is adding the four names to our Paperless Post list. Liza will introduce them at the May meeting as well as the June Annual meeting.

Anita commented that the same members who generally come to clean-ups at the two gardens we take care of were at the recent John Jay clean-up. Janet has communicated with each sponsor, telling her to communicate responsibilities of membership with her respective candidate. Liza will also speak with Deirdre to emphasize again to sponsors and new members that participation in bi-annual maintenance of the gardens is a responsibility of membership. Regarding membership meeting attendance, Liza will

take a look at our records going back five years to review and contact members who are not actively participating. Liza read the part of our By-Laws dealing with expectations for members' participation and the feeling was expressed that the By-Laws could be more specific, as they once were. Suggestions included developing a detailed list of expectations of membership.

### **Dues**

Debbie will print out a bill for each member to be handed out at the June Annual Meeting and mailed to those not in attendance. For the first time, the bill will state a due date of August 1. Another bill will be sent in late summer/early fall to anyone who has not already paid.

### **Other Issues**

Liza brought up a comment she has received from Lindsay Matthews regarding a new posting on the Houlihan Lawrence website describing the five local garden clubs. Lindsay is concerned that it may represent unwanted advertising for us. The article was written by Jennifer Stahlenkrantz, Editor, *Bedford Record Review*, at the request of the Houlihan Lawrence Bedford Village office manager. Joyce was requested to provide information and Linda a photo. The part about the BGC relates to our history and community activities. The piece is one of many others on the website intended to give prospective homeowners the flavor of our community. Linda volunteered to be a contact point should anyone inquire. No one has inquired and, should someone do so, Linda will handle after consulting with Liza.

### **June 7 Executive Committee Meeting**

The meeting will be held at 9:30 a.m. at Liza's home. Wendy F kindly agreed to take minutes of the meeting in Linda's planned absence.

Meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Linda J. Merrill  
Recording Secretary