

Bedford Garden Club  
Executive Committee Meeting  
201 Croton Lake Rd., Katonah  
June 7, 2017  
9:30 a.m.

Attendance: Liza Clymer, Joyce Corrigan, Wendy Cushman, Carol Bouyoucos, Wendy Foulke, Debbie Gourd, Deirdre Glascott, Mary Kendrick, Virginia Maybank, Kirk Ferguson, Janet Robinson, Adele Talty, Nancy Vincent, Susan West

President, Liza Clymer, welcomed us into her lovely home. The first item on the agenda was asking Ellen Conrad to discuss with us the details about the Bedford Garden Club Support Letter that needs to be sent to the N.Y. State Congress. Ellen explained how in Minnesota native plants are being put at the base of the many large Solar Arrays around the state. The Minnesota government highly approves of this as the natives feed the pollinators, and the native plants take the place of high maintenance grass turf that is usually put around the arrays. Two N.Y. state congressmen have already introduced the bill, and right now letters from garden clubs are going to Albany praising and supporting these innovative and exciting Solar Array projects. The Bedford Garden Club needs to sign a letter of approval by June 21st, which Liza will do.

**Treasurer's Report:** Debbie Gourd relayed that all members' dues had been paid, and new dues notices would be coming out at the annual meeting. She said that we are researching whether our \$300 donation should go to the National Parks foundation or another entity. She reported that we had not received a bill from Claudia West yet, nor had we received payment from JJH or the Herb Society toward Andrea Wulf's lecture.

**Horticulture:** Virginia Maybank spoke about the vegetable competition at the upcoming annual meeting. There will be three classes, and everyone is encouraged to participate. We talked about Claudia West's lecture and the idea that many perennials do better when planted in groups of three to five and when planted next to specific perennials. There are plants like trees that want to be solitary. We talked about having in-house lectures. Anita could talk about composting and soils. Virginia volunteered to talk about her recent trip to England and the Chelsea Flower show.

**Exhibitions:** Wendy Cushman, head of flower design, said that our club has a bad reputation among other clubs as it has too few exhibitions and that we need to put more energy and focus on creating designs and exhibiting. She reported that Carol Rice got an award for her table arrangement at the Zone 3 meeting and that Carol Bouyoucos got a blue ribbon for photography.

**Programs:** Joyce is formulating a theme for next year's program called "Agents of Change". Please e-mail Joyce about any idea for speakers you might have for next year.

**Conservation:** At the upcoming meeting, Susan West will describe next year's conservation focus, which is for us to become more aware and knowledgeable about the trees that are on our own properties. Several local naturalists (from the Mianus River Gorge and the Bedford

Audubon) have drawn up a list of trees that are significant for the ways in which they support a healthy habitat.

**Visiting Gardens:** Mary Kendrick and Varner Redmon reminded us about the trip on Tuesday, June 20th to Old Farms Nursery in Lakeville, CT. followed by lunch and a stop at the Battle Hill Forge to see finely crafted metal design pieces for gardens.

**The September fund raising party** was discussed. Heather says plans are proceeding well, and that invitations go out in early August. It is not too soon to remind people to think about and offer items for auction. It was also suggested that at a future time we might want to include the larger community and perhaps have a big fundraiser on the Village Green.

**Other issues:** Nancy Vincent brought up the subject of nominating club officers and questioned whether the lengths of the terms of officers have over the years slipped away from the original bi-laws. A discussion ensued about whether we should be stricter about the bi-laws and stick to the long-standing traditions of the club.

Meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Wendy Foulke  
[filling in for Linda Merrill as recording secretary]