

Executive Committee Minutes, 9-5-18
201 Croton Lake Road

Liza Clymer, President, called the meeting to order.

Again, Liza kindly hosted the meeting at her home. In attendance: Robin Ashley, Carol Bouyoucos, Jayni Chase, Liza Clymer, Ellen Conrad, Beth Crowell, Wendy Cushman, Mary Finnegan, Debbie Gourd, Nancy Kronenberg, Heather Langham, Cynthia Mas, Virginia Maybank, Kim Morris, Lynda Morris, Janet Robinson, Nancy Vincent, Natica von Althann, Holly Warshaw, Tina Winchester, Dana Worlock

Programs: Nancy Kronenberg has assumed the position of Program Chair as Joyce Corrigan's new teaching schedule will interfere with her attendance at BGC meetings. With suggestions from various members, especially committee chairmen, Nancy had the rest of the 2018 programs scheduled, and for the first half of 2019 had the speakers while awaiting confirmation of their dates and the meeting locations. The topics of the speakers will support this year's theme of "More Sex in the Garden: birds, bees & other agents of change" and will cover soil, seeds, plant and flower photography, and foraging to name those speakers firmly scheduled. Nancy K. Is within budget to date. Our new member, Martha Stewart, will be a speaker at one of the winter membership meetings. On May 1, 2019 renowned author Andréa Wulf will speak. This meeting will be shared with Rusticus Garden Club and open to the public.

Heather as head of Seedlings requested an online calendar. Everyone should send an email of any BGC meeting or event to Debbie Gourd and Nancy Vincent. The format of the "calendar" on the BGC website is a list of all the events with date, time, and location.

BranchOut!: Heather Langham and Virginia Maybank have been chairs for close to ten years. The first 2018 meeting is on September 17 at 9:00 at Virginia Maybank's and is for anyone who has an interest in discussing the focus of BranchOut! for the near future. The purpose of the meeting will be to build involvement and expand the reach of this subcommittee with

workshops and walks. The balance of their account of \$5000 will go toward maintaining the trees on Route 22 in front of Key Foods.

Treasurer: Tina Winchester spent much of her summer considering the best way to maximize the BGC funds which are sitting in the checking account but not needed in the immediate future. The cash from the BGC Dreyfus account and some of the excess from Operating Costs allows the club to purchase a CD of \$80-100,000 at 2.2 percent for a year. *A formal motion for this purchase will be made at the next meeting.* Tina will establish an alternative method to using checks or cash for paying dues and making other payments. The consensus was that we need to have a Financial Committee which will have continuity and not turn over every two years. This committee would be signers on accounts eliminating the need for new signature cards as terms end.

Horticulture: Having offered to boost the impact of our Greens Day Boutique, Robin Ashley and Dana Worlock have put much thought and effort into developing a true holiday boutique. This year Dana will give a demonstration on decorating a mantel.

On an as yet unspecified Saturday there will be a trip to Tiny Hearts Farm, a grower of organic flowers in Copake. The new Director of Hilltop Hanover, and among other positions a former head of the Preservation Department at Seed Savers Exchange, will speak at our October Membership meeting on "Seed Saving and Native Plants".

Nominating Committee: as chair Kim Morris has this committee in formation well in advance of our October Executive meeting. This is nicely well ahead of the time, October Exec, which our Bylaws states that the Nominating Chair should be appointed. A suggestion encouraged the Nominating Committee to work with Policy to study how other Zone III clubs fill positions and operate to discover what approaches might be beneficial for us to consider.

Hostesses: Mary Finnegan will oversee Hostesses. The duties of hostessing will fall on the membership at large. Discussion occurred on who should be included as hostesses. The decision was that the officers

and the chairs of Standing Committees should be exempt from hostess duties. Associate Members also are excused from hostessing.

Conservation: Jayni Chase and Ellen Conrad met with the Rusticus members who led a soil study series for their members, and our Conservation Chairs came away with wonderful ideas for workshops and speakers. They suggested the first speaker for this year's Membership Programs, Margery Winters who will speak on "Soil - it's not just Dirt" and the *Sex in the Garden* occurring under the ground. The October Membership Meeting will feature Shanyyn Siegel, who worked at the Seed Savers Exchange and now has come east to work at Hilltop Hanover Farm & Environmental Center. There is a full schedule of Conservation workshops posted on the BGC website.

Floral Design is the new name for Exhibitions. Wendy is planning to have a Flower Show Committee within Floral Design. While she has not been receiving notices of upcoming Zone III Flower Shows, once she has solved that glitch she will organize trips to local flower shows. With the Floral Design Committee's oversight, the membership will concentrate on creating the community wreaths on Greens Day. The Floral Design Committee is responsible for the procurement of all greens, wreath frames, ribbons and decorative effects as well as the distribution and hanging of the community wreaths. Individuals will not be making their wreaths at Greens Day but will still be asked to bring decorative greens to Greens Day for use on the community wreaths.

Garden History and Design: Carol Bouyoucos as chair spoke about a request from the new executive director of Katonah Museum, Michael Gitlitz, for a garden club to design an updated garden on the museum property. It was decided that Carol would get more information on what the Museum is seeking. If the idea passes within the Executive Committee, it will then be voted on by the total membership to ensure there is enough backing by club members to make it a successful project. This committee will be concentrating on documenting both Susan Burke's and Diane Lewis' gardens.

A discussion ensued concerning sign up for committees, projects and duties. A decision was made that sign up will be some method online, perhaps Paperless Post. Since we need to engage members, everyone should choose to serve on a Standing Committee/s even though typically all members are invited to all committee workshops and meetings.

Liza Clymer's term as President will end this June, but she has nobly offered to chair our next fundraiser. It will be at Deirdre Glascott's new house where the open rooms, beautiful landscape and plentiful parking will attract us all. While the date is not settled it will be on a Saturday in mid June. (Later specified as 6/15/19.) Liza and Deirdre are hoping to get the landscape architect who designed the grounds at the Glascott's new house as an auction item.

The BYOV (Bring your own Vase) event will happen again this year at Varner's studio on November 20. There was discussion with Carol Rice and Dana about the pricing of the event. It should end up about \$30/35 per person. (Later changed to \$50/person.)

Bedford 2020 has now received the designation to lead the towns of Bedford, Pound Ridge and Lewisboro on a pilot project to promote the use of geothermal heating and cooling in these three towns. Similar to the Solarize campaign in 2015, there will be a five-month campaign where homeowners will receive a discount when they sign up for geothermal during this time period. B 2020 will do a lot of outreach, but BGC can have a special info session at a Conservation Workshop.

Nancy Vincent, standing in for Linda Merrill, Recording Secretary, and with help from Lynda Morris