

**THE BEDFORD GARDEN CLUB**  
**EXECUTIVE MEETING MINUTES**  
**Wednesday October 21, 2009**  
**Historical Hall**

**Present; Mimi Lines, Sally Kroll, Selby Ehrlich, Ellen Conrad, Virginia Maybank, Cynthia Mas, Varner Redmon, Elizabeth Bernard, Heather Langham**

**Call to Order:** Mimi called the meeting to order. In her opening remarks, Mimi encouraged committee heads to concentrate on outreach and public education over the next two years.

**Corresponding Secretary's Report:** There was a motion to waive the reading of the report. The motion was passed.

**Recording secretary's report:** There was a motion to waive the reading of the report. The motion was passed.

**Treasurer's report:** Virginia circulated the treasures report. She commented that BGC had to change checking accounts at Wachovia because the terms had changed. We have a different account number. Virginia said she moves money from the money market account into the checking account as needed to take advantage of money market interest rates. Year-to-Date budget numbers are available for committee heads. Bedford Environmental Summit Account- the money in this account is not BGC's but BGC does have fiduciary responsibility. When Coalition 2020 becomes a 501C3 BGC will turn the money over to the Coalition.

### **Topics of Discussion**

#### **Nominating process: President, Executive Committee, and Standing Committee Heads.**

Anita Stockbridge suggested that the slate of officers and committee heads be set the winter before the term expires and voted on at the Annual Meeting as stipulated in the by-laws. Her concern is that the Programs Chair needs to be in place well before the annual meeting to have enough lead time to schedule speakers for the upcoming year.

Ellen Conrad, speaking from experience as the past President, commented that this was too far in advance and created a lame duck issue for the sitting president.

There is also the practical issue of how the Program chair co-ordinates with the 4 Standing Committee Heads to line up a speaker on their topic. (Ideally, there would be a guest speaker on each of these 4 subjects.) It was suggested that the job description for committee heads would include the wording, "work with the Program Chair to organize a meeting on their topic".

It was decided that a committee (Varner Redmon, Mimi Lines, Sally Kroll, Virginia Maybank, Ellen Conrad) would be formed to study the issue and review the by-laws. The committee will prepare and present a report to the Executive Committee.

### **Civic Committee** – Ellen gave an update on post-Summit activity

- BEAP (Bedford Energy Advisory Panel) completed an action plan and held a series of public meetings. The plan will be presented to the Town Board in December. The plan's goal calls for a 20% reduction in carbon emissions by 2020.
- The Bedford 2020 Coalition is in the process of becoming a 501C3.
- The Coalition will be comprised of 11 task forces and will engage many affiliation groups.
- The 4 main task forces are:
  1. **Energy efficiency and retro fitting** homes and government building with energy saving technologies.
  2. **Waste Study** for the town, homeowner, and municipality.
  3. **Land Use**-focus will be on trees.
  4. **Food and agriculture**

A discussion ensued on the role the BGC might play in this new entity. There are several options: (1) BGC might consider joining the Board of Directors (2) BGC might consider joining the advisory board (3) BGC might consider joining a task force or leading a task force (a possible option is the Bedford Tree Project Committee joining the Land Use task force).

Mimi moved that BGC play a major role in the Bedford 2020 Coalition. There was an informal general agreement on this point among the executive committee members present. A task force will be formed to study the issue and options.

### **Exhibition**

Flower shows- Leslie will keep the Committee informed on upcoming Flower Shows in our area. Information will be posted on the website.

Leslie commented on the possibilities of organizing flower arranging demonstrations at nursing or retirement homes.

Greensday will focus on wreath decorating. There will be a demo (no speaker) and members will pay a fee to create their own wreath.

### **Visiting Gardens**

Cynthia Mas gave us a heads up on 3 wonderful trips in the planning phase:

1. May- Rumson NJ
2. July- Cooperstown
3. October- Shelburne Farm

### **Horticulture**

Rachel Ocken will be organizing a bulb planting workshop in the John Jay Homestead Sun Dial Garden.

An April container workshop organized by Perennial Gardens for the BGC Village Planter Committee, BGC members and the public is under consideration.

**Other topics**

Public Outreach- Elizabeth Bernard suggested creating a public website geared toward homeowners developing their own gardens. The website might include a Q and A, events and tips and links to other websites such as Bedford Coalition 2020. Elizabeth will work on forming a committee to study the project.

GCA Centennial Founder's Fund Project (landscaping the 69<sup>th</sup> Street entrance to Central Park and the Dense Summer House) is asking each GCA Club to contribute \$25 per head. All present agreed that we need to know more.

Sadly, long standing BGC member Sally Hazard died. Selby Ehrlich will read a tribute at the next meeting. Suzanne Bowers, as head of membership, will write a note of sympathy.

**Other announcements**

Wendy Ross is taking over Awards from Nonie Reynders. Nonie did a superb job as head of awards and Wendy is just the person to fill her shoes. It is a big, important job.

Nominating- will be headed by Varner Redmon

Shelly Ferrall will organize a boutique of fun and useful garden related items to be sold at the monthly meetings.

Carol Boyucous created logos for each standing committee and will create logos for the Centennial and possibly for the Tree Project and the Boutique.

Mimi created a bulletin board (on hand for each meeting) to post standing committee activity and other points of interest and information.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

The next executive meeting TBA.

Respectfully submitted,  
Heather Langham