

**THE BEDFORD GARDEN CLUB
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES
Thursday February 12, 2009
At the home of Virginia Maybank**

Present: Ellen Conrad, Suzanne Bowers, Leslie Wortman, Heather Langham, Lindsay Matthews, Kim Morris, Virginia Maybank, Dominique Buaron, Janet Robinson.

Call to order: Ellen Conrad called the meeting to order.

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. Heather Langham will circulate a copy of prior minutes before the next scheduled Executive Committee meeting, along with a reminder of the meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Virginia Maybank circulated 2 reports; the first outlines both the checking account balance as of February 12 of \$33,366 and the amounts in BGC's Restricted Accounts. A reminder to those who have not already paid their 2008 -2009 dues will be sent out. There was a motion to approve the civic commitment grants read by Virginia (these are the same as last year). The motion was passed and as in every other year, the checks will be sent out in April. A brief discussion took place regarding the number and size of these contributions. The consensus was that all of these relationships are important and it is imperative for the BGC to support these organizations. Our contributions meet or are above the minimum contribution level.

Standing Committee Reports:

Garden History and Design: Varner was not present.

Exhibition: Leslie Wortman announced the details of the all Club challenge class at the February 25th general meeting to be held at Historical Hall. Our accomplished flower arranger Dominique Buaron will serve as judge. Arranging will take place from 9:15 to 10:00. Experienced flower arrangers will be paired with less experienced members. After the general meeting is conducted Dominique will spend 45 minutes critiquing the arrangements, with the meeting scheduled to conclude at 11:15. This is a stress free, fun way to learn more about flower arranging and exhibiting.

Horticulture: Dominique reminded the Committee of the Annual Meeting plant exchange on June 9th. Even though we did not do any hardwood cuttings in the fall, we can still do some softwood cuttings of the Red Twig Dogwood. If you need help call Dominique at 914-582-0302. Also, Dominique encouraged everyone on the Hort Committee to get ready for our Zone III plant exchange in May. Dominique announced that the Yellow Book has been changed and BGC members should purchase a new copy. Leslie will order copies of the new book that will be on sale at meetings.

Virginia Maybank and Heather Langham presented the initial platform of the **Sustainable Bedford Tree Project**. This project will fulfill GCA's 2013 Theme: Trees, Our Living Legacy and serve as one of BGC Centennial Projects. The first iteration of the mission statement is as follows (It will most likely evolve from here).

The mission of the BGC *Sustainable Bedford Tree Project* is to restore, enhance and protect the trees lining the major thoroughfares of Bedford, New York and to educate the public about the many environmental, commercial and social benefits of a healthy tree canopy.

The next step is to meet with the Town to develop guidelines and a feasibility study.

A motion was put forward to approve \$2000 for expenses incurred for a tree inventory and producing GIS maps. (\$1000 from the Centennial Fund and \$1000 from the Civic and Education Fund)

Conservation: see Environmental Summit

Environmental Summit: Kim Morris pointed out that because the Bedford Garden Club was a co-sponsor of the Summit all members need to be informed. To that end, it was suggested that the Summit program (listing speakers, lectures, and expo participants) and an easily digestible overview be distributed to all members. April's general meeting (4/15) will be dedicated to the Summit. Kim Morris and Olivia Far will organize the meeting's agenda. Dominique Buaron and Lindsay Matthews volunteered to help organize and Virginia and Heather will present the *Sustainable Bedford Tree Project*.

The Summit steering committee while conducting a meticulous post mortem has an eye to the future and Sustainable Bedford will become a 501C3. To stay in touch visit (<http://www.sustainablebedford.org>)

Other Committee Reports:

Membership: Suzanne informed the Committee that all letters for the current slate of proposed members are needed by the end of February for voting at the April meeting. It was discussed and agreed that prospective members must be available to attend 70% or more of the Wednesday meetings.

Operations: For the future, Ellen stressed the importance of clearly delineating and spreading out the President's duties. All positions and job descriptions are under review to see where efficiencies and responsibilities can be streamlined. The operations committee will produce a report before June.

John Jay Homestead: Heather Langham reported that the Friends of John Jay Homestead have plans to redesign the paths in the formal garden. It was agreed that no design changes to the beds themselves will take place until after the installation of the paths. Lindsay Matthews will continue to organize the BGC volunteers to tend the Garden.

Next Executive Meeting: April 1, 2009 (location TBA)

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.