

Bedford Garden Club
Minutes
Executive Committee Meeting (via Zoom)
9 am January 5, 2022

Attendance: Beth Sachs, Virginia Maybank, Suzanne Bowers, Heather Langham, Anita Stockbridge, Cynthia Mas, Ellen Conrad, Emily Grand, Natica von Althann, Diane Lewis, Tina Winchester, Leslie Wortmann, Susan Burke, Nancy Vincent, Nancy Kronenberg, Kim Morris, Brett Cameron, Wendy Cushman, Varner Redmon

Welcome: President's Report Beth Sachs

Beth welcomed everyone to the meeting and announced that next week's Membership meeting will be held virtually due to Covid restrictions. The speaker for our February meeting will also be via Zoom. Beth hopes that we will be able to meet in person again for our April meeting. In the interim, our club continues to move full speed ahead on a variety of different programs and workshops. The Nature Series has been a great success as each month we have been able to meet outside.

Beth reported that a Website Steering Committee has been formed with Nancy Vincent and Emily Grand as co-Chairs. The committee is Anita Stockbridge, Carol Bouyoucos, Varner Redmond, Christine Frisbee, Brett Cameron and Beth Sachs. An online questionnaire/survey will be sent to the membership for their feedback after the January 12th Membership meeting. Nancy V. mentioned that Debbie Gourd should be on the committee as she is currently helping with Nancy with the website. Virginia noted that a Bedford Garden Club app should be a priority.

Beth noted a procedural change to the minutes of the December 8, 2021 Executive Committee meeting which was to add Leslie Regan to the attendance list. She thanked Leslie for her ongoing efforts and said she is very grateful for her continued creativity and diligence as Corresponding Secretary.

Beth announced that Virginia Maybank is now the Chair of the Nominations Committee and thanked Ellen Conrad for reminding her of this important task.

Beth proposed that we wait until the February Membership meeting to vote to ratify the changes to the bylaws with regard to Membership. There were no objections.

Beth said that in December Jayni and Ellen compiled a special holiday gift list of items that benefit the environment. Susan Burke suggested that we share this with the GCA and perhaps they would put it on the GCA Marketplace. Diane Lewis noted that more guidelines should be put in place prior to submission.

Beth asked us to please read "A Kind of Genius" prior to February's meeting.

Beth finished her report by introducing a topic that will be discussed in during New Business today. Many years ago our member Mary Kendrick established a reserve fund to be used for special projects. This has grown over the years to such an extent that we could easily use some of the funds to invest in the more visionary projects that we have discussed over the years. Varner has explored a project which celebrates children and wildflowers/native plants and, along with Susan Burke, has created a proposal that she will introduce to us at the end of our meeting.

Minutes: Suzanne Bowers

A change to the December 8th, 2021 Executive Committee Meeting minutes was duly noted and Leslie Regan was added to the list of attendees.

A motion was made to waive the reading of those minutes and was seconded. The minutes were then unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report: Virginia Maybank

Virginia said that the Treasurer's Report is from October 30 to December 31, 2021 as there was no report for the month of November. She mentioned that BYOV was quite expensive, that a few people still have to pay for their entry and that we are down about \$700 from the event. A discussion ensued that those who did not attend due to last minute cancellations should pay the fee and that Leslie should consider charging \$75.00 next year. Virginia announced that we made about \$1000 in profit from Greens Day and thanked Leslie for her efforts. Kim asked about Atlock Farm who contributed \$100 and asked if we should invite him again next year or if his topiaries present too much competition for our boutique. We discussed some options. Virginia noted that our balance on hand is \$116,000 and that our total assets are \$192,000. She then described the various accounts that we have and their specific uses finishing with our endowment established by Mary Kendrick 20 years ago which is currently \$52,000. A discussion ensued with regard to the financing of the Zone 3 meeting.

Standing Committee Reports:**Civic Affairs and Conservation: Ellen Conrad and Jayni Chase**

Ellen reported that she and Jayni had spoken to Rusticus about having a showing of "Uninvited" at the Bedford Playhouse which has been abandoned unfortunately due to Covid restrictions. They are discussing having a Zoom call instead as a webinar with panelists with a link to the movie which people can watch afterwards. They are discussing February 7th as a possible date.

Floral Design: Leslie Wortmann

Leslie thanked Virginia for the financials from BYOV and Greens Day and said that everything was a little more expensive this year due to supply chain issues. If anyone has any comments on either event, please send to Leslie so that she can make them even better next year.

Garden History and Design: Susan Burke, Wendy Cushman, Varner Redmon

Varner noted that Heather kindly volunteered her house for meeting in January to talk about measuring but that this will be put off until the spring due to Covid restrictions. Wendy reported that the committee is documenting Barbara Israel's and hopes to be done by the end of spring. Varner suggested that we could take a tour of all the documented gardens this spring.

Horticulture: Virginia Maybank and Tina Winchester

Tina said that she and Virginia will keep everyone apprised of upcoming meetings and their progress on the Almanac. Their January and February workshops will be on Zoom but they are hopeful that they can meet in person in March.

Branch Out: Heather Langham and Virginia Maybank

Heather reported that she and Virginia are researching more effective ways to get more trees in the ground and more people to help with this effort.

Programs: Michaela Beitzel and Kim Morris

Kim said that she will cancel the venue for the January and February meetings and coordinate these to take place over Zoom. Kim and Michaela are still working on the speaker for March at Glen Arbor and said that this too may take place over Zoom.

Membership: Cynthia Mas

Cynthia reported that her committee has 7 prospective members and that all letters should be submitted by March 1. Approved candidates will be admitted by late April so that their first meeting will be the May plant exchange.

Photography: Anita Stockbridge

Anita said that the committee has launched a Winter Tree Project and that both Francine Walker and Varner Redmon have been very helpful with this. A Zoom meeting is scheduled for January 10th at 4 pm to discuss. She would like to put some of the wonderful photos she has received on our Instagram.

Special Committee Reports:

Seedlings: Emily Grand

No report

Trips and Visiting Gardens: Varner Redmon

No upcoming trips planned due to Covid.

Website: Emily Grand and Nancy Vincent

Emily and Nancy will be addressing the updating of the website

Zone III Meeting June 2023: Heather Langham and Nancy Kronenberg

Heather reported that they are slowly but surely developing plans for the Zone 3 meeting “Take Me Home Country Roads” along with their Rusticus co-chairs Melissa Fleming and Kathy Biddle. They are currently focused on where the event will be taking place both the meeting space and the flower show venue but that it is too premature to make any announcements about the venue choice at this time. They will be meeting over Zoom on January 18th to further discuss. They are thrilled that Carol Bouyoucos will be designing the logo and printed material and that Kerry Wilson (Rusticus) and Leslie Wortmann will be co-chairs of the Flower Show. Plans are moving along and everyone is very excited. There are 15 different volunteer categories so Heather and Nancy hope this is a very inclusive, team building opportunity for all. They said it has been a pleasure to work with the Zone representatives on this. A discussion ensued about dedicating time in a future meeting to launch the Zone meeting to our membership.

Corresponding Secretary: Leslie Regan

No report

Members Calendar: Tersey Regan

No Report

New Business:

Beth invited Varner to speak about a new initiative that Varner and Susan Burke have envisioned for the Bedford Garden Club. Varner explained that many years ago two members of our club, Ms. Eloise Payne Luquer (founding member) and Ms. Delia West Marble were instrumental in acquiring funding for the building of the Trailside Nature Museum at Ward Pound Ridge Reservation, the park's first Naturalist, and the development of the park's first nature trails. The half-acre Luquer-Marble Memorial Wildflower Garden was created in 1955 by the Bedford Garden Club and dedicated to the memory of Ms. Luquer and Ms. Marble, long-time conservationists. The garden was started to preserve endangered native plants and educate visitors about plant conservation. Varner explained that we have a long history of

creating and helping to tend the Wildflower Garden which, over the past 20 years, has fallen into a state of disrepair. In fact, Beth was approached by Ward Pound Ridge to take a look at the garden to see whether the BGC could help. Varner is proposing that the BGC recreate and reimagine the Luquer-Marble Wildflower Garden. She explained that It is a perfect use of our endowment to reimagine this gorgeous space with children and education in mind. A discussion ensued regarding the creation of a curriculum for the thousands of school children who visit Ward Pound Ridge each year to educate them about native plants, invasives and our environment. Varner described how this project fits in well with our mission to help our community, to protect native plants and dovetails beautifully with the GCA's celebration of Frederick Law Olmsted. She asked the Executive Committee to consider granting \$25,000 from our endowment fund which would be matched generously by Susan Burke. Susan has been instrumental in the Native Plant Garden at the NY Botanical Garden. Betsy Mitchell has offered to donate her time and talent to the project as well. Betsy and her daughter-in-law would like to develop an on-line curriculum so that the garden can be used as a teaching tool. Diane Lewis applauded the idea and offered her help. Varner explained this would be a commitment to restore the garden but that our club would not be responsible for the ongoing maintenance of it. Nancy V. mentioned the idea of a reserve fund dedicated to the future care of the garden. A discussion ensued about Ms. Luquer, a renowned botanical artist, and her paintings which the BGC donated to the Brooklyn Botanical Garden. We also donated botanical slides to the Trailside Museum and XXX has said he could print these for us. Everyone thought this could be a good fundraising idea.

A motion to appropriate \$25,000 from the BGC Endowment to reinvigorate the Wildflower Garden at Ward Pound Ridge according to the guidelines that have been presented by Varner Redmon in her document was made. The motion was unanimously approved by the Executive Committee. Varner thanked Beth, Susan, Betsy for their participation and the Executive Committee for approving this special project. Beth has arranged for our April 20 meeting to be held in the Wildflower garden. Beth thanked everyone for this exciting meeting and for everyone's contributions.

Meeting Adjourned at 10:41 am.

February 2022 Executive Committee Meeting:

The next Executive Committee Meeting will be held via Zoom on Wednesday, February 9th at 9 AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne Bowers
Recording Secretary