

Bedford Garden Club  
Minutes  
Executive Committee Meeting (via Zoom)  
9 am November 10, 2021

**Attendance:** Beth Sachs, Virginia Maybank, Suzanne Bowers, Jayni Chase, Leslie Wortmann, Varner Redmon, Tina Winchester, Emily Grand, Christine Frisbee, Kim Morris, Wendy Cushman, Natica von Althann, Susan Burke, Marilen Tilt

**President's Report: Beth Sachs**

Beth welcomed everyone to the meeting noting that she would like to keep to our scheduled hour and yet wants to ensure that everyone has an opportunity to speak and share their thoughts. Beth is thrilled with how everything is going this year especially during the ongoing Covid situation and feels that the club has a healthy number of diverse offerings and activities to engage our members. She thanked everyone for their hard work, especially recognizing Kim and Michaela who are busy organizing the November General Meeting at the Bedford Golf and Tennis Club with Frances Palmer and who are working diligently to ensure that we adhere to the BGTC's Covid policy. Beth noted that the next Executive Committee meeting will take place on Wednesday, December 8<sup>th</sup> at 9 am via Zoom, and not on December 1<sup>st</sup> due to Greens Day. She reported that the Naturalist Series is going well and that all enjoyed a gorgeous day at Croton Point watching the Raptor Migration with Bedford Audubon's Tait Johansson last Saturday. There is a lot going on at the GCA with the celebration of Frederick Law Olmsted's 200<sup>th</sup> birthday which will be discussed during New Business. Beth also noted that Diane Lewis discovered a wonderful film on Invasives entitled "Uninvited" and said the Conservation Committee is contemplating a viewing party to see the film together. Beth mentioned that she is trying to keep email announcements to the Club to a minimum and suggests that no more than two be sent to the membership per month. Beth has been speaking with Nancy Vincent about a possible upgrade to the website and asked for opinions and thoughts. Would people like to see a BGC app? A public page? A photo archive? Be able to submit online payments? Would anyone be willing to help Nancy with this project? Emily Grand suggested that we poll the membership using an online survey which she could create. Emily also said she would be happy to work with Nancy on the website upgrade. Beth thanked Emily enthusiastically! Beth finished her report by saying the Francis Palmer lecture will begin promptly at 10 am next week so that all committee are asked to keep their reports to a minimum.

**Minutes:** A motion was made to waive the reading of the minutes from the October 13, 2021 Executive Committee meeting and seconded. The minutes were then approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** Virginia Maybank

Virginia noted that there was less activity in October than in the busy month of September with dues and proceeds from the Benefit. She had a few last expenses for the Benefit and the normal BGC expenses. There is a total of \$110,000 in the club's account. She suggested we keep the money there as there is no better rate anywhere. A motion was made to approve the Treasurer's Report and seconded. The report was then approved.

**Standing Committee Reports:**

**Civic Affairs and Conservation:** Ellen Conrad and Jayni Chase

Jayni reported that they have 7 more copies of Lynn Steiner's book on Invasives if anyone is interested in purchasing one. Ellen and Jayni are working on a possible viewing of the film "Uninvited" at Jayni's house on December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 9:30 am. Jayni said she is still working on organizing the notes from their Invasives workshop and that they will be showing a 5 minute video at next week's meeting.

**Floral Design: Leslie Wortmann**

Leslie participated remotely to give her report. She said that BYOV is her committee's next big event (17 people are coming, there are a few more spots left) and that she has ordered ½ of the flowers which she will be conditioning on Monday prior to the event. Greens Day will take place on December 1<sup>st</sup> at Westmoreland Sanctuary. There will be a plant sale plus some gift items such as candles and Atlock Farms will be selling topiaries as well. Brett and Leslie will be doing several tablescapes and mantel décor for the holiday. Leslie is also organizing the decorating and delivery of the community wreaths. A discussion ensued regarding how to handle finances, Atlock Farms sales, set up and rentals. Varner suggested an email reminder be sent to the membership and Emily said she would coordinate with the seedlings to help with set up/volunteering. Leslie said she would be happy to deliver plants to a member who does not feel comfortable attending due to Covid restrictions.

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

The committee continues to work on the project of documenting members gardens.

**Horticulture: Virginia Maybank, Tina Winchester**

Tina spoke about the dahlia workshop that will be led by Virginia and that the bulb forcing workshop went very well as did the trough making workshop. She announced that the Horticulture committee will be planning a workshop each month beginning in January and that they are also working on the republishing of the BGC Almanac.

**Branch Out: Virginia Maybank and Heather Langham**

Nothing to report.

**Membership: Cynthia Mas**

Nothing to report other than many perspective members have been invited to the Frances Palmer lecture.

**Photography:**

Anita was not present, but it was noted that the trip to Innisfree was fun and productive, and Anita would like to have photography on our website.

**Programs:**

Kim emphasized that Francis Palmer will begin her lecture promptly at 10 am. It will be approximately 45 to 50 minutes. 40 books signed by Francis will be available for sale as well as 2 dozen puzzles. Kim and Michaela are working on a whiskey-tasting event at Glen Arbor on March 23<sup>rd</sup> in the evening. This is an extra meeting and there will be a charge per couple.

**Special Committee Reports:**

**Fall Benefit: Wendy Cushman**

Wendy gave a final update for the Fall Benefit saying that it was a great success, congratulating Beth and thanking everyone for their efforts. A discussion ensued as to the delivery of several lanterns that remained in Susan's barn.

**Grants and Scholarships:**

Beth reported that Cecilia and Caroline are working hard on some wonderful programs.

**Policy: Debbie Gourd**

Nothing to report.

**Seedlings: Emily Grand**

Emily asked that we continue to keep her informed on any event we would like the Seedlings to participate in and she is happy to coordinate. A discussion ensued on BGC membership cards and nametags. Emily offered to update these and reissue for all members.

**Trips and Visiting Gardens: Varner Redmon**

Varner noted that Innisfree was a great trip and that this was organized with members from the Photography committee. Varner said that she is happy to organize a trip with any of the Standing Committees. There are lots of plans for the spring.

**Yearbook: Liddy Baker**

Beth noted that everyone is thrilled with the yearbook and to please let Liddy know how appreciative we are of her hard work.

**Website: Nancy Vincent**

Nancy was not present, but Beth noted that she will be very happy to have Emily's help in updating our website.

**Zone Meeting: Nancy Kronenberg and Heather Langham**

No updates to report. Beth mentioned that Heather and Nancy are busy organizing for a successful event.

**Corresponding Secretary: Leslie Regan**

Nothing to report. Leslie was not present, but Beth thanked her for her creativity and time.

**Members Calendar: Tersey Regan**

Nothing to report. Beth asked everyone to continue to send Tersey monthly updates to the calendar.

**New Business**

Beth spoke about the exciting new initiative that the Garden Club of America is undertaking in 2022: Olmsted 200, the celebration of Frederick Law Olmsted's birthday. Olmsted was born on April 26, 1822. The GCA is encouraging us to organize events that promote and celebrate the values that Olmsted embodied. Beth said that for example Olmsted would have applauded the monthly Walk with a Naturalist series which Beth noted was very "Olmstedian". Beth mentioned that the best book she has read on Olmsted is entitled "Genius of Place", a biography by Justin Martin. Beth recommended the book to the GCA and also reached out to the author. He has agreed to visit our club and speak on February 16<sup>th</sup> at 10 am. Everyone was thrilled to hear this announcement and it was suggested that we reach out to the Rusticus members as well. A discussion ensued about planning an event/tour of Central

Park followed by lunch. Susan Burke said she would be happy to help arrange something with the Women's Committee of the Central Park Conservancy. Varner and Wendy said they would love to help. No other new business was reported.

Beth wished everyone a very Happy Thanksgiving.  
Meeting Adjourned at 9:55 am

**November Executive Committee Meeting:**

The next Executive Committee Meeting will be held via Zoom on Wednesday, December 8th at 9 AM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Suzanne Bowers  
Recording Secretary