

Bedford Garden Club  
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes  
9am November 9, 2022

**Welcome:** Beth called the meeting to order at 9:00 am

**Minutes:** Suzanne Bowers not in attendance. The reading of the minutes from the last 2 meetings was waived

**Treasurer's Report:** Virginia Maybank reviewed the Treasurer's report and Operating budget

In attendance: Elizabeth Sachs, Tina Winchester, Virginia Maybank, Ellen Conrad, Susan West, Cynthia Mass, Leslie Regan, Leslie Wortmann, Betsy Mitchell, Jayni Chase, Vickie Morris, Diane Lewis, Cameron Goodyear, Anita Stockbridge, Heather Langham, Christina Bresani, Heidi Fahey

### **Standing Committee Reports**

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

From Jayni: As you know, Ellen and I have been working with Dan Raichel from NRDC (the Natural Resources Defense Council) to discuss the [Birds and Bees Protection Act](#). This NYS legislation is aligned with GCA's positions, it would prohibit harmful and unnecessary uses of neonicotinoids pesticides, or "neonics." Neonics have been identified as a leading cause of mass bee and pollinator losses and they've been increasingly linked to mass losses of birds, ecosystem-wide harms, and threats to human health.

The bill was passed by the NYS Assembly two years ago and by the Senate last year. To pass now, the bill will need to be reintroduced early next year and pass in both houses. With the momentum built this year, there's a good chance we can get this bill over the finish line in 2023, but every bit of support counts. **Our elected representatives NEED TO HEAR FROM US.**

[This short animated video](#) provides a quick explanation of the issue as does this [short fact sheet](#) (for more information, see [NRDC's Bigger than Bees](#) report).

We are working with Joy Flynn, Zone III Conservation Chair, to mobilize all Zone III members in support of the bill. We are asking our club members to do two things:

**1) Reach out to our state representatives in mid November/December.** NRDC thinks a call or email will be very effective in the mid-November through mid-December time period in order to ensure that this legislation is one of the first issues representatives hear about on the heels of midterm elections. Although emails and phone calls are helpful, **calls are the most impactful.**

Below we've included a phone and email script you can use when reaching out. You can look up the contact information for your state assembly member [here](#) and your state senator [here](#).

**2) Attend our Zone III Webinar on this issue Wednesday, January 11, 2023, at 6:30 PM.** We're hoping all of BGC's members sign up and attend. More details to follow. Why not?!

So, watch the short video, read through the attached document and fact sheet, then just dive in and make two phone calls — one to NYS Assemblyman Chris Burdick and one to NYS Senator Pete Harckman. Then mark our Jan 11th Webinar on your calendar. Believe us, it's easy-peasy and you'll feel really good once you do!

Thank you all for your work and please feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns! We really can make a meaningful difference!

**Floral Design:** Leslie Wortmann

Leslie reminded us of the 11/23 BYOV \$65 per person and the 11/30 Wreath Making Workshop \$30 per person (both at her home) and of Greensday on 12/7. Greensday will highlight arranger Cathy Graham as guest speaker, topiaries from Atlock Farm, plant sale and community wreath decorating at Westmoreland Sanctuary.

**Horticulture:** Virginia Maybank and Tina Winchester+ Branch Out Heather Langham

Tina recapped their Hort Committee workshop on 11/2 at Virginia's to demonstrate digging, dividing and storing Dahlia's. They will pause on workshops for December but will commence in the new year. One of their first workshops will be a demonstration of Winter sowing in jugs.

**Membership:** Cynthia Mas - nothing new to report - but there are several strong candidates in the proposal pipeline

**Photography:** Anita Stockbridge - given the holidays, no events on the calendar. The Rusticus iPhone photography talk and workshop at the Playhouse was excellent and several from Anita's committee attended

**Programs:** Kim Morris and Michaela Beitzel - not in attendance - BGC Special Storm King lecture and Film Event January 18, 2023, 6pm at the Bedford Playhouse

**Special Committee Reports**

**Gardens:** Betsy Mitchell – Betsy gave an update on both the Wildflower Garden at the Ward Pound Ridge Reservation and the ongoing work at the garden at the Northern Westchester Hospital.

**Grants:** Cecilia Wolfson - not in attendance...application deadline December 1

**Historian:** Following report is from Susan West

Beth reminded me that consolidating & storing the Club's records needs to be completed. She would like this process to be restarted early next year.

1. The length & placement of the drafts of BGC history for the website is still being discussed. In the Twitter world we live in, the briefest "sound bite" format may be the best way to catch people's attention, with fuller explanations available, but not foremost for the public or our members. Decisions here are still *in medias res*.
2. Tina & Virginia are looking for brief anecdotes to add to the revised BGC Almanac. Old copies of "Clippings" & the "Bulletin" might be great possibilities, which I'll look into.
3. I am still pursuing the history of the Alice Sloan Anderson Memorial Terrace at NWHC. Conversations with the President of the Bedford Hills Women's Club on their plaque dated May 10, 1960 leading to the Terrace came up empty. Their oldest member was unable to explain why this was installed.
4. I'm still trying to find out more about the garden of raised vegetable beds planted on the ASA Memorial Terrace by a Chappaqua Eagle Scout, whose experience getting this project approved & completed could be helpful for our work there.

**Seedlings:** Emily Grand - not in attendance

**Yearbook:** Liddy Baker - not in attendance but she did send in a request that the job descriptions, not updated for years, be updated for the blue book

**Website:** following report is from Nancy Vincent

Varner and I have been working with our website designer, Maureen Rooney, to determine an appealing template design and solutions to its limitations. We have begun to make executive decisions.

We want to thank by name Joyce Corrigan for her outstanding editing and Susan West for her knowledge of our club history in addition to her research and prose.

To the committee chairs who have completed the brief description of their “membership” committees we also give our thanks.

Joyce, and we, await the arrival of most of the “administrative” committee reports.

The combination of the “membership” committee descriptions and the “administrative” committee descriptions will be found in the Members Only section of the new website. This will allow all members to know what each committee is doing and have a better understanding of our club.

**Zone III Meeting:** Nancy Kronenberg and Heather Langham - plans progressing well. The Flower Show schedule, which is so impressive, is in the final stages of approval. It is going to be a showstopper Flower Show.

#### **New Business**

- 1) Virginia Maybank: Introducing our new Members at Large  
Christina Bresani, Heidi Fahey, Cameron Goodyear, Victoria Morris (continuing in this role)
- 2) Joyce Corrigan: BGC Communications - asked that Committees take pictures at committee events and workshops and send to her to post on Instagram
- 3) BGC Special Storm King lecture and Film Event January 18, 2023, 6pm at the Bedford Playhouse

#### **Dates of 2022-2023 BGC Executive Committee Meetings**

|             |             |
|-------------|-------------|
| November 9  | 9am on Zoom |
| December 14 | 9am on Zoom |
| January 11  | 9am on Zoom |
| February 8  | 9am on Zoom |
| April 5     | 9am on Zoom |
| May 10      | 9am on Zoom |
| June 7      | 9am on Zoom |

Beth thanked everyone for their dedication and commitment to BGC. and adjourned the meeting at around 10:00 am

Respectfully submitted,  
Heather Langham and Suzanne Bowers