

Bedford Garden Club
Minutes
Executive Committee Meeting (via Zoom)
9 am October 13, 2021

Attendance: Beth Sachs, Heather Langham, Virginia Maybank, Suzanne Bowers, Ellen Conrad, Jayni Chase, Leslie Wortmann, Varner Redmon, Tina Winchester, Michaela Beitzel, Emily Grand, Nancy Vincent, Nancy Kronenberg, Leslie Regan, Cecilia Wolfson, Christine Frisbee, Debbie Gourd, Brett Cameron, Kim Morris

President's Report: Beth Sachs

Beth reported that everything is going well, everyone is working hard and hopefully having fun! Beth requested that everyone keep their report to approximately 2 minutes as she is committed to keeping the meeting on schedule and finishing by 10 am. Beth is excited about the terrific speaker we have planned for next week, Lynn Steiner, who will be presenting in person rather than remotely, to our "hybrid" BGC audience (due to ongoing Covid concerns, BGC members will participate both in person and over Zoom).

Minutes: A motion was made to waive the reading of the minutes from the September 8, 2021 Executive Committee meeting and seconded. The minutes were then approved.

Treasurer's Report: Virginia Maybank

Virginia noted that the Treasurer's Report had been distributed via email to the Executive Committee prior to this meeting. She said the club took in a lot of funds over the course of the past month due to benefit income and Club dues. We currently have \$115,000 cash on hand.

Standing Committee Reports:

Civic Affairs and Conservation: Ellen Conrad and Jayni Chase

Jayni reported that they had good participation for the Invasives workshop. Jayni is doing some additional research and will be sending a report to everyone which will include the photos that Beth took. Jayni rented a Uhaul truck and trailer for the pick-up which will be on October 18th and 19th. Ellen said they are very excited for Lynn Steiner's lecture at the Membership meeting next week and that her book, "Grow Native: Bringing Natural Beauty to your Garden" which will be for sale has many helpful charts for all gardeners. Kim spoke about the technological and logistical part of the meeting and said they have a few plans for Lynn's presentation.

Beth suggested it may be nice if the BGC purchased one of Lynn's books and donated it to the Bedford Library. Everyone thought that was a good idea and it was suggested that this could be an ongoing contribution to the library. Beth said the library should be contacted to see if this is something they would like and if they have adequate space.

Floral Design: Leslie Wortmann

Leslie said she hosted 2 workshops, one for Seedlings at the John Jay Homestead (8 Seedlings attended) and one for the Flower Design Committee at her home (10 FDC members attended). Next week's membership meeting will feature the Flower Design Committee's first tablescape. She is starting to work

on BYOV and Greens Day and will organize another workshop in January or February. She delivered a flower arrangement from the last workshop to Daphne Root.

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

Varner reported that the Garden History and Design chairs are about to send forms to their committee members to start the documentation of their own gardens. They will be meeting sometime next month. Varner said that the GCA Garden History and Design committee is honoring Frederick Law Olmsted's birthday with an initiative called Olmsted 200 and would like to know about our involvement in our local parks. Varner communicated our participation in the Courthouse Garden and John Jay Homestead Sundial Garden. Varner was pleased to note that Daphne Root has joined their committee.

Horticulture: Virginia Maybank, Tina Winchester

Tina noted that the Forced Blub Zoom workshop is coming up on October 27 and an email about this will go out shortly. She has ordered supplies for people to pick up. They will also be sending information on the Hyperfufa Trough workshop which will be a 2-day event. Virginia said they are waiting for a hard frost before they can schedule the dahlia workshop.

Branch Out: Virginia Maybank and Heather Langham

Heather reported that a team of 5 growers grew over 100 trees over the summer and that in partnership with Bedford 2030, Branch Out sold 110 trees at a recent event held at the Bedford Hills train station. She said that it was a very successful collaboration and she appreciated that Bedford 2030 gave Branch Out a dedicated landing page on their website where people could sign up to purchase the trees. Virginia noted that that the compostable felt bags with handles were very popular!

Membership: Cynthia Mas

Beth reported on behalf of Cynthia and brought up two topics of conversation. The first was a proposal that the BGC have a different membership schedule, more in line with that of Rusticus and with the idea that the first meeting for new members would be the Plant Exchange in May and not the Annual Meeting in June. This would entail:

Mid-January: Cynthia reaching out to the membership to inquire about possible candidates

Beginning of March: all proposers/seconders/supporters to submit letters to Cynthia

March: Membership committee to vote on candidates

April Executive Committee meeting: Exec Comm to vote on candidates

Plant Exchange: New members 1st meeting

Emily commented that being in sync with the Rusticus membership schedule was a great idea, but she thought the Rusticus schedule was more oriented towards the beginning of the year and that they begin to make inquiries after their annual meeting. She said that she, Heather and Nancy K had discussed this last year and that Nancy K had several discussions with Melissa Fleming of Rusticus. Beth suggested that Emily speak with Cynthia to further discuss.

The second topic of discussion was with regard to the possibility of proposing a male candidate for membership. Beth asked for a show of hands of those in favor and those who were not and will report back to Cynthia.

Photography:

Beth reported that Anita's committee is busy doing great things and that Anita will have a more thorough report next month. Varner mentioned that the trip to Innisfree scheduled for October 15 is in conjunction with the photography committee.

Programs:

In addition to Kim reporting above about the technology for next week's program, she said that she is excited for Frances Palmer's lecture who will be speaking about her new book. Michaela reported that Atlock Farms is on board for Greens Day on Dec 1st and that another group can be there in conjunction with Atlock. She asked Leslie if there will be a presentation. Kim and Michaela noted that there were no changes to the calendar for the second half of the year and that they were still working on a possible Irish speaker for March 23rd to be held at Glen Arbor with a possible whiskey tasting.

Special Committee Reports:**Fall Benefit: Wendy Cushman**

See Wendy's report which is attached.

Policy: Debbie Gourd

Nothing to report

Seedlings: Emily Grand

Emily reported that on September 29th Varner and Leslie hosted a great Seedling kick-off meeting at the Sundial Garden. Varner taught about the garden, spoke about its history, and prepared the Seedlings for club expectations. Leslie led a successful floral workshop. The 8 seedlings who attended had a lot of fun (4 Seedlings from the 2021 class and 4 from the 2020 class). Emily said that she is including the 2020 Seedling class in this year's events as they were not able to fully participate last year due to Covid. She said of the eleven 2020 Seedlings that ½ said they would love to "repeat" their introductory year, and ½ said they felt that they had a great year last year and didn't necessarily need to repeat.

Visiting Gardens: Varner Redmon

Varner noted that the trip to the Manitoga House in Garrison New York last Friday was spectacular and that she will do a write up for the website. The trip to Innisfree on Friday will be in conjunction with Anita, Francine and the photography committee.

Yearbook: Liddy Baker

Beth noted that Liddy Baker will be at the entrance of Historical Hall next week at the Membership Meeting to distribute the Yearbook on which she devoted untold hours.

Website: Nancy Vincent

Nancy would like everyone to check the website for accuracy on dates. She asked if Jayni could send her the report on Invasives so she could include that on the website. Nancy also invited the committee chairs to look at and possibly revise the descriptions for their committees since they haven't been updated in close to 15 years. She asked how we can make the website more attractive and a site that members would like to visit more often? Beth suggested that this be discussed more in depth at another time and brought up the idea of a BGC app. Heather asked if Branch Out could have a page on the BGC website.

Zone Meeting: Nancy Kronenberg and Heather Langham

Heather reported that the dates for the Zone III meeting have been approved by the GCA and will be June 20, 21 and 22 of 2023. They have secured St. Matthew's Church as the venue and are starting to put together the leadership for the 15 committees in conjunction with Rusticus. Nancy and Heather will continue to keep us updated.

Corresponding Secretary: Leslie Regan

Leslie had nothing to report. Beth thanked her for her lovely and creative invitations.

Members Calendar: Tersey Regan

Nothing to report

New Business

Beth asked Cecilia Wolfson to report on Grants and Scholarships. Beth mentioned that Scholarship normally comes under the auspice of the First Vice President, but that Heather asked Beth if someone could take over her role due to her other extensive Garden Club obligations. Caroline Black has had extensive experience with nonprofits and grants and Cecilia had tremendous success raising so much money during the recent BGC auction. Together they make an excellent team. Cecilia said that this will be a group effort and that they will also be relying on the Executive Committee to lean in and share their thoughts. She said that the BGC has different pools of money and has given to many different local organizations over the years. The Civic donation budget is at \$2000 and the Scholarship fund at \$4000. Because of our recent success at the fundraising event, we will have \$25,000 to give as a grant this year and \$25,000 next year. Cecilia and Caroline are open to new ideas and would like to ideally choose 2 to 3 grants so that our support will make a significant impact. She mentioned the possibility of a garden at the Northern Westchester Hospital or perhaps at the Women's' Correctional Facility. Caroline and Cecilia would like to make a sizable and substantive impact on a group of people who would benefit from a garden and by being surrounded by nature. Nancy V mentioned that the Garden Club has a history with the Northern Westchester Hospital and that we created the Alice Anderson Memorial Garden there of which Ruth Sharp was a great supporter. Varner suggested that we make a list of all organizations that we have supported over the years and noted that the prison is one of them. It was noted that the club's history is important and that continuity is vital as well as our vision and commitment to the community. Beth said that we all look forward to hearing more about the progress made by the Grants and Scholarship committee.

On a different note, Nancy V inquired as to whether new members were getting hard copies of our club histories which she feels is so important. Beth confirmed that they are. A discussion ensued as to where the copies are, how many we have and if some should be republished. Beth said that she will take on the task of finding out the above, consolidating and finding a new home for the books if necessary.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:58 am

November Executive Committee Meeting:

The next Executive Committee Meeting will be held via Zoom on Wednesday, November 10th at 9 AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne Bowers
Recording Secretary