

Bedford Garden Club  
Minutes  
Executive Committee Meeting  
12:30 pm October 19, 2022  
at the home of Jayni Chase

**Attendance:** Suzanne Bowers, Tina Winchester, Cynthia Mas, Vickie Morris, Jayni Chase, Susan West, Ellen Conrad, Betsy Mitchell, Nancy Kronenberg, Virginia Maybank, Leslie Regan

**Welcome:** Jayni and Ellen graciously invited the Executive Committee to Jayni's house for a luncheon meeting following a blow torch demonstration at noon. Jayni and Ellen provided a delicious lunch which was enjoyed by all. Unfortunately, Beth was unable to attend the meeting.

**Minutes of the September 2022 Executive Committee Meeting:** It was decided that the minutes from the September 2022 Executive Committee meeting would be voted on at our meeting in November.

**Treasurer's Report:** Virginia told us about a new monthly report she has started which will state the balance and running tallies of each committee so that the chairs can be mindful of their budget and finances throughout the year.

**Standing Committee Reports:**

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

Jayni and Ellen spoke about their ongoing work with Daniel Raichel, NRDC Acting Director of the Pollinator Initiative and the Birds and Bees Act. They hope to host a Zoom call with Dan in January (tentative date January 11) for all of Zone III. They noted the good work that has been ongoing in the health field with relation to Birds and Bees and hope to have a physician for Social Responsibility join the call to talk about a recent study done: "Birds, Bees and Babies". Ellen and Jayni will distribute a 3-page fact sheet to the club in early November and encouraged us to call our representatives in mid-November to mid-December to get this in the forefront of their minds for the January vote. Their goal is to have our club members each engage 10 other people to get them to write and call their representatives. The time is ripe!

Ellen and Jayni noted that the invasives project with Mianus River Gorge continues to be successful and that they are now in the process of setting up training.

**Floral Design: Leslie Wortmann**

Leslie hosted a workshop for seedlings at JJH on October 5. 4 attendees.

Tomato/flower arrangements for October 6th meeting donated by Ginger Getz, Leslie Wortmann and Tina Winchester.

Working on BYOV, it's scheduled for Tuesday November 22 in Beth Sachs Barn. Pre-registration required. Cost \$65. Email invitation will be sent.

Plans are underway for Greensday on December 7. Speaker and plant sale are in the works.

**Horticulture: Virginia Maybank, Tina Winchester**

Tina reported that she and Virginia led a Division workshop at John Jay Homestead for 10 people. She noted that all the Zone III clubs have been asked to submit 3 plants for a plant exchange and they would like to focus on “pass along” plants, plants from your garden that have a story. Tina noted that both the method of propagation and the narrative, or “story” behind the plant will be judged among other criteria. She and Virginia are planning a Zoom workshop “Forcing Winter Bulbs” on October 29<sup>th</sup> followed by a Dahlia workshop on November 2<sup>nd</sup>. They are continuing work on the Almanac and would welcome thoughts and/or small articles from the club on interesting topics to add to the Almanac.

**Membership: Cynthia Mas**

No report other there are some great candidates in the pipeline for next year.

**Photography: Anita Stockbridge**

Many Thanks to Rusticus for inviting BGC to the iPhone photography lecture and workshop. It will be a great opportunity to learn new skills on our phones we use every day.

No other report at this time.

**Programs: Kim Morris and Michaela Beitzel**

No report at this time.

**Special Committee Reports:**

**Grants and Scholarships: Cecilia Wolfson**

From Cecilia: Betsy is planting phase 1 of the NW Hospital Garden because her schedule is busy and she has the plugs and needs to get them into the ground. We'll do a second planting in the spring.

Betsy reported that there has been a delay with the work done on the garden at Northern Westchester Hospital due to the intricacies of red tape and bureaucracy that is very involved and difficult to work through. Betsy has spent many hours interviewing patients, family members, nurses and staff members to better understand how the garden will be used. Betsy encouraged the Executive Committee to keep in mind the importance of building relationships with the entities that we decide to fund as that is key to the successful completion of projects. She noted how supportive and crucial the staff at Ward Pound Ridge and the Friends of the Trailside Museum have been to our efforts to restore the Wildflower Garden.

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

Nancy noted that she and Heather are in the process of identifying speakers for the Zone III meeting. The Awards Ceremony will be held at Glen Arbor. They are still working through the details of the dinner the night before. They've been told that the correct time to send out the Sign-Up Genius to club members for volunteer positions is in March. Everyone thought it would be a good idea to send a “Save the Date” to all members for the Zone III meeting to ensure it is on everyone's calendar. A discussion ensued as to how to engage all members in this important event.

**Historian: Susan West**

Susan presented a “History Minute” on Emily Tucker's 1954 bird list, at the height of the fall hawk migration. She wrote numerous drafts for the public and private pages of the Club website on the Alice Sloan Anderson Memorial Terrace at NWHC and sent them to Nancy Vincent. Refinements are ongoing. Susan went to NWHC and visited the Anderson Memorial Terrace in the company of Public Relations. She surveyed the Terrace, took photographs and sent them to Nancy for the article.

Susan discussed with her PR escort the Chappaqua Boy Scout who planted a vegetable garden on the ASA Terrace this year for his Eagle Scout project and is trying to find out more about this. Susan wrote a synopsis of past, present, and future "History Minutes" as requested by Beth.

#### **Seedlings: Emily Grand**

Leslie hosted a lovely Introduction to Flower arranging workshop on Wednesday, October 5 for three of our 6 Seedlings. Leslie introduced some of the principles, reminding everyone these rules are meant to be broken. Seedlings then took their hand at making their own arrangements in containers and with flowers the Leslie procured from East Coast.

#### **Trips and Visiting Gardens: Varner Redmon**

Betsy and Varner are giving a tour of the Wildflower Garden to the board of the Trailside Museum.

#### **Website Committee Report: Nancy Vincent**

From Nancy: 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.

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

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.

#### **New Business:**

Beth asked us to brainstorm ways to engage our new young members in our club. A discussion ensued and below are suggestions:

- One on One mentor. This person would be in addition to the new member's proposer. Or small mentorship groups could be formed (2 Seedlings, 2 Mentors).
- "Junior Chair". Each new member (or perhaps in their 2nd or 3rd year of membership) would be asked to be the "junior chair" of a committee for a one-year term so they could learn from the chairs and be less intimidated when it was their turn to chair a committee. This wouldn't automatically result in the junior chair becoming the chair the following year but would help to instill the idea of a leadership role in the future.
- "Tips and Tales" each member should submit an entry to a newsletter/blog which could be ongoing and engaging.
- Interview Seedlings from the past 3 to 4 years to ask their suggestions.
- Encourage nametags at each meeting.
- A commitment and understanding from new members to attend monthly meetings is important.

The next Executive Committee meeting will be held via Zoom on November 9<sup>th</sup> at 9 am.

Respectfully,  
Suzanne Bowers  
Recording Secretary