

Bedford Garden Club
Minutes
Executive Committee Meeting (via Zoom)
11 am September 8, 2021

Attendance: Beth Sachs, Heather Langham, Virginia Maybank, Suzanne Bowers, Ellen Conrad, Jayni Chase, Leslie Wortmann, Wendy Cushman, Varner Redmon, Tina Winchester, Cynthia Mas, Anita Stockbridge, Michaela Beitzel, Emily Grand, Nancy Vincent, Nancy Kronenberg, Leslie Regan, Tersey Regan, Diane Lewis, Susan Burke, Cecilia Wolfson, Christine Frisbee, Marilen Tilt, Natica von Althann, Joyce Corrigan, Debbie Gourd, Caroline Black, Vickie Morris

Welcome: President's Report Beth Sachs

Beth welcomed us to the first Executive Committee meeting of the year and said that it was a joy to meet with everyone over the summer. She is very excited about our plans for the coming year. Beth reported that due to some underspending because of Covid restrictions last year, the Garden Club had a surplus of \$10,000. She and Nancy K. agreed that \$1,500 should be given to each Standing Committee leaving a balance of \$1000. At Beth's suggestion, this \$1000 will be put towards a new initiative for the Garden Club: "Walks with a Naturalist" which will take place on the first Saturday of each month and will lend a fun and interesting point of view to the many enriching programs in our area. Beth feels that these Walks will be a great addition to the Club's offerings and will create a greater awareness of our community.

October	Mianus Preserve: Ecology of the Old Growth Forest
November	Croton Point: Raptors and Eagles with Tate Johansson
December	Ward Pound Ridge: Wildlife Tracking Program
January	Wolf Conservation Center
February	Ward Pound Ridge: Winter Trees, Their Moss and their Lichen Companions
April	Marsh Sanctuary: Introduction to the Rewilding School
May	Westmoreland Sanctuary: Spring Ephemerals

Minutes of the June 2021 Annual Meeting: A motion was made to waive the reading of the minutes from the June 2021 Annual Meeting and seconded. The minutes were then approved.

Treasurer's Report: Virginia Maybank

Virginia reported that currently 116 people have rsvp'd to attend our Light My Fire event on Saturday, September 11. We have received \$25,000 in ticket sales.

60% of members have sent in their dues. Virginia will send a reminder.

She reminded everyone to please send in their expenses especially relating to the event on 9/11.

There is \$63,000 in the Garden Club's bank account as of 8/30.

Anita Stockbridge suggested setting up a Zelle account for the Garden Club and said that the Marsh Sanctuary has one and it works well. Virginia said she would investigate the tax implications and report back.

Standing Committee Reports:

Civic Affairs and Conservation: Ellen Conrad and Jayni Chase

Ellen and Jayni spoke about their 2021/22 program which will focus on Invasives, Lobbying Efforts, the Fashion Industry, Plastics, and Native Plants.

September 24th: "Identifying Invasives Tour" workshop led by Tate Johansson at the home of Susan Roos at 9:30. Attendees will learn about Invasives at the workshop, be given 3 weeks to remove Invasives from their property and then one week will be dedicated to the pick-up and disposal. This workshop was done previously but due to its success it's being repeated especially for our younger members. They plan to circulate information about invasives prior to the workshop.

October 20th: Membership Meeting will feature Lynn Steiner, Author, "Grow Native: Bringing Natural Beauty to your Garden". This will be a lecture on Native Plants via Zoom. Books will be available for purchase.

Other Topics of interest: Fashion – Ellen and Jayni are gathering information on the fashion industry: What is the damage done, what can be done better, which companies are advocates in this field? (January workshop: Fashion + Its Impact on the Environment)

Lobbying efforts:

Local: Ellen and Jayni are looking into the regulations regarding leaf blowers especially the technology behind electric and battery operated which will help with noise and air pollution.

State: Birds and Bees Protection Act (more to follow)

Federal: Legislation on Plastics.

February 16, 2002: Open to the Public Membership Meeting "Plastics: The Health and Environmental Risks of Plastics"

Spring 2022: Conservation Workshop: Using Natives in our Own Garden

Floral Design: Leslie Wortmann

Leslie plans to schedule most of the Floral Design events/workshops in the fall/early winter.

October 6th at 10 am: A Floral Design workshop will be held at Leslie's home.

November 23rd: BYOV Beth Sach's at Barn Studio

December 1: Greens Day at Westmoreland Sanctuary

Leslie is a co-chair of the Hostess committee with Brett Cameron. She plans to have her committee members embrace the theme of each Membership meeting in their floral arrangements, vases, food served, etc.

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

Varner explained that the Bedford Garden Club has been documenting members' gardens for the past 30 years and submitting the information to the Smithsonian Institute. The committee is currently working on the gardens of Susan Burke, Denise Santomero and Barbara Israel. This year Varner would like every member to document their own garden. This will teach the membership (1) about the history of their property (2) how to draw a garden plan and (3) learn about garden photography. This will be compiled in a book which will be a great resource for the future.

On January 12th Magda Salvesen, Garden Historian, will speak followed by a BGC Garden Mapping project workshop.

Varner, Susan and Wendy will also host a series of workshops throughout the year at different people's houses.

Horticulture: Virginia Maybank, Tina Winchester

Tina and Virginia met in August to start planning the year's activities.

September 15th: At the Kick Off meeting the horticulture committee will host a hands-on Seed Saving workshop following the speaker which will demonstrate how to collect and save seeds.

September 22-23: GCA Horticulture Conference. Shirley Meneice will host "Travel the Country virtually with presentations from Botanical Gardens of all shapes and sizes". 2 day event, open to all via Zoom.

October 27: Winter bulb forcing workshop via Zoom at 9:30 am

November: Day and Time TBD: 2-day Trough workshop

Spring 2022: Winterizing Dahlia Bulbs workshop

Project: Revise the Bedford Garden Club Almanac which was published in 1960. Tina and Virginia will put together a Steering Committee to determine the form and shape. They hope to have the Almanac ready for the Zone meeting in 2023. They would welcome any copies of the Almanac from members.

Membership: Cynthia Mas

Cynthia reported that our bylaws state that the Active and Sustaining Members can total 100. Cynthia has been working on moving members to their correct membership status which has resulted in a total of 81 active and 13 sustaining members (total of 94). Cynthia has received 6 letters from members for candidates who wish to join. She asked if we should leave the Active/Sustaining number at 100, increase it, move Sustaining to a different category or otherwise open our membership to a larger number. Our Associate Membership level is capped at 25, we currently have 17 members in that category. Cynthia also feels that the Annual Meeting is a difficult one for new members to attend as their first meeting and suggested the membership timeline be changed so that the Plant Exchange in May could be their first meeting. Some discussion ensued.

Beth suggested that Cynthia discuss these questions with her committee and other interested members and make a proposal at the next Executive Committee meeting.

Photography:

Anita mentioned that she has been busy with the preview party scheduled for this evening, and the Light My Fire event on Saturday.

September 22nd: With Varner's help, Anita is organizing a workshop at the Sunken Garden in Caramoor. Anita is speaking with Thadeus Kublis (Hollister House) about a workshop and Liz Piazza, flower and photography judge, to see if she would speak. She is working with Kim and Michaela for a January/February speaker. Anita plans to organize a Photography Show with judges at the Annual Meeting on June 16th at Caramoor. This will train our members about how to correctly fill out photography forms and help to encourage them to enter shows nation-wide.

Programs:

Michaela announced that the calendar is filling up nicely:

Sept 15: Matthew McDowell, Garden Director, Bedford Audubon. Topic: Sunflower Project at HHF
9 am St. Matthew's Church, Fellowship Room.

Oct 20: Lynn Steiner, Author, "Grow Native: Bringing Natural Beauty to your Garden"
9 am Bedford Historical Hall

Nov 17: Frances Palmer – Well-known potter and author "Life in The Studio"
9 am Bedford Golf and Tennis Club

Dec 1: 9 am Greens Day at Westmoreland Sanctuary

Jan 12: Magda Salvesen, Garden Historian, will speak followed by BGC Garden Mapping workshop
9 am St. Matthew's Church, Fellowship Room

Feb 16: Plastics Seminar

Time and Location, TBD

March: Georgian Society Lecture and Whiskey tasting event.

Evening, Glen Arbor, Time TBD

April 20: Author Susan Lowry. Presentation on "Hudson River Gardens"

9 am, Location TBD

May 18: Tina Winchester's barn. Plant exchange. Atlock farms will be selling topiaries

June 16: Caramoor Center for Music and the Arts, Annual Meeting. Photography show.

Beth noted that the Executive Committee in December will take place on December 8th, as Greens Day will take place on the 1st.

Special Committee Reports:

Fall Benefit: Wendy reported that everything is done for the Fall benefit thanks to all the incredible women on her committee. She thanked Beth for the brilliant lantern idea and said the preview party this evening is generating a lot of excitement. Christine Frisbee is making a great new cocktail, the food will be outstanding, the parking is under control. Cecilia gave an update on the fabulous auction items and said the catalogue will be sent to the membership via email after the preview party tonight. Beth thanked Wendy for the wonderful update and all her hard work and Cecilia for the remarkable job on the auction which she has done with the help of Cynthia. Beth also noted the generosity and engagement of the membership.

Seedling: Emily Grand

Emily will send a report as she had to leave the meeting early.

Visiting Gardens: Varner Redmon

Varner mentioned that it has been very difficult to plan trips due to Covid and that much remains closed. She may try to schedule a short trip to Innisfree in Dutchess County. She asked if anyone has fun ideas for the fall or winter to please let her know.

Yearbook: Liddy Baker

Beth reported for Liddy that the yearbook would be printed up for next month's membership meeting. Liddy has asked that all Program Chairs' reports be sent to her by the Annual Meeting so that she can be sure the yearbook will be ready in September. A discussion ensued regarding the expense of printing the Yearbook and how members names are stated in the book. Varner and Nancy Vincent volunteered to speak with Liddy about some modernization/streamlining of the Yearbook which could make it more efficient and less costly.

Zone Meeting: Nancy Kronenberg and Heather Langham

Nancy thanked Beth for laying the foundation for the Zone meeting which will take place on June 20, 21 and 22 in 2023. Nancy and Heather are happy to be working with Melissa Fleming and Cathy Biddle of Rusticus. They will show the wonderful video which was produced by Jamie Edgar at the Membership meeting next week. This video was produced at the request of the GCA to invite the various Garden Clubs in Zone III to the Zone meeting as Nancy and Heather could not do this in person at the last Zone meeting due to Covid restrictions. They are working on identifying committee chairs for the various tasks needed. Nancy announced that Leslie Wortmann has kindly agreed to co-chair the Flower Show with Kerry Wilson (Rusticus) which Nancy said is a major piece of the Zone meeting. Linda Merrill has agreed to chair the hotels. They are finalizing the location of the meeting. Nancy thanked Denise and Liza for asking Martha Stewart to host the awards dinner. She has kindly agreed.

New Business:

Leslie Regan, our new Corresponding Secretary, needs the dates, locations and themes of the Membership Meetings.

Tersey Regan is compiling a monthly calendar for the Garden Club and has asked for input from all the committees each month so that she can send this out in a timely fashion.

Ellen Conrad and Jayni Chase spoke about a draft letter in Support of the Birds and Bees Protection Act (attached) which concerns the use of neonicotinoids (aka “neonics”), which is a class of neurotoxic pesticides. This letter is in support of a NY State hearing to be held at the end of September to discuss the issue. Following the hearing there will be further discussion and we will receive guidance from the GCA and our Zone leadership as to a more formal letter in support of the legislation to ban the use of neonics in NY State. Diane Lewis spoke in favor of support and circulated two documents of interest (attached). A motion was put forth, seconded and approved by the Executive Committee in support of the letter.

Summary: At the end of each individual report Beth thanked the Standing Committee and Special Committee Chairs for their hard work, dedication to the Club and enthusiasm. She is thrilled about the coming year and thanked everyone for a wonderful meeting.

October Executive Committee Meeting:

The next Executive Committee Meeting will be held via Zoom on Wednesday, October 13th at 9 AM.

Meeting Adjourned at 12:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne Bowers
Recording Secretary