

Bedford Garden Club
Minutes
Executive Committee Meeting
12 noon September 7, 2022
Via Zoom

Attendance: Beth Sachs, Suzanne Bowers, Tina Winchester, Natica VonAlthan, Cynthia Mas, Joyce Corrigan, Vicki Morris, Jayni Chase, Susan West, Nancy Vincent, Ellen Conrad, Leslie Wortmann, Heather Langham, Betsy Mitchell, Nancy Kronenberg, Liddy Baker, Varner Redmon, Marilen Tilt, Chris Frisbee, Anita Stockbridge, Cecilia Wolfson

Welcome: President's Report Beth Sachs

Beth welcomed everyone to our Zoom meeting and to our new year. Over the past month Beth has had an opportunity to read through everyone's goals and intentions for the year and she is so impressed with the progress made to date and with the upcoming plans for the year ahead. She also noted that we are in excellent financial shape. Beth clarified that the November Executive Meeting will be held on the 9th, not the 19th. Beth would like the Executive Committee to focus on two thoughts for discussion at the October 19th Executive Committee: (1) to find ways to engage our younger members in meaningful ways and (2) to research solutions to address our long-term storage needs. Tina W, Susan W, Marilen T and Chris F volunteered to help research the question of storage.

Minutes of the May 2022 Executive Committee Meeting: After a motion was made and seconded, the minutes of the May 2022 Executive Committee Meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Beth reported in Virginia's absence that we have a healthy balance and are in excellent financial shape.

Standing Committee Reports:

Civic Affairs and Conservation: Ellen Conrad and Jayni Chase

Ellen and Jayni had a very productive meeting that morning with Rod Christie at Mianus River Gorge. The 20 sites that they visited to study and remove invasives were very successful. They learned a lot from Rod and his team who were very helpful with the organization and various steps involved. In the next phase they hope to find landscaping companies who can be hired to help remove invasives. Rod is working in training landscapers, but it tends to be complicated. At some point removing invasives may become a business as some towns have passed legislation requiring their removal.

In early January Ellen and Jayni hope to have Daniel Raichel, NRDC Acting Director of the Pollinator Initiative, give a presentation that would be open to the public on Birds and Bees Act and the health risks apparent with the use of Neonics.

Jayni and Ellen had to cancel the Earth Tone tour but they hope to reschedule. They are working to co-host a seed collecting and propagating workshop with the Hort committee. They are holding off on meeting about Plastics until January or February.

Some discussion about invasives ensued. Nancy K suggested that the newcomers who have moved to the Bedford area be educated in Invasives. Leslie W suggested a tent at the Farmers Market at John Jay which would be a good opportunity to educate. Ellen thanked them for these ideas.

Floral Design: Leslie Wortmann

Leslie noted that she will continue the “Tablescapes” theme at each of the Membership meetings this year. Julia Johnson will bring the arrangement for next Wednesday’s meeting. The theme is the celebration of our member Daphne Roots’ centennial birthday which took place on August 30th. Leslie is planning a Seedling workshop for late September/October. She noted that she may have to raise prices for BYOV will take place again this year in Beth Sach’s barn. She is exploring different ideas for a Greens Day speaker. Leslie would like to coordinate a group to attend the 3 Harbors Garden Club Flower Show which will take place on October 13th. She mentioned how important it is for us to visit Flower Shows to stay current. She hopes to plan several Challenge classes in the spring.

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

Varner reported that she hopes to finalize the documentation of Denise Santomero’s and look into documenting the gardens of Vicki Morris and Melissa Orme.

Horticulture: Virginia Maybank, Tina Winchester

Tina said that she and Virginia discussed their plans for this coming year and they will be sending workshop dates to Tersey for the BGC calendar. They are planning a workshop for October 12th at a garden to be determined with an eye to the Zone III meeting. They would like everyone to bring a “pass along” plant – a plant in your garden that came from another garden. If one is sentimental, they could divide the plant at your house and everyone can learn about propagation by division. Tina explained that most of the meetings this year will be concentrated on the Zone III meeting. They are up-to-date on the September Almanac and only have a few more months to go with their revision project.

Membership: Cynthia Mas

No report other than several members have contacted Cynthia with regard to candidates for this year. Letters due in early April.

Photography: Anita Stockbridge

Anita said that not much happened over the summer. Patty Grunbaum, head of Rusticus’s photography committee has written the schedule for the Zone III photography show. There will be 6 classes and 24 entries. Our club will be allowed one entry. Anita will send the schedule out and suggested that we can take photos for each of the classes as if we were going to enter. She is possibly going to arrange a trip to Innisfree for the fall foliage. A Zoom class on editing tricks is in the works with Bob Black.

Programs:

Kim and Michaela were not able to attend the meeting. Beth commended them for the wonderful and diverse programs that took place last year and that they have planned for this year.

Special Committee Reports:

Grants and Scholarships: Cecilia Wolfson

Cecilia reported that both the Bedford Audubon and Westmoreland Sanctuary had interns over the past summer and all were very successful. The 4 interns gave presentations, and it was clear how much they

had learned. Mianus River Gorge is putting our donated funds to good work with their Invasives project. Regarding our Northern Westchester grant, the hospital is waiting for a proposal from a landscaper before a planting date can get on the schedule. Betsy Mitchell has developed a great design for the garden. We are also waiting for the hospital to get a proposal for the stonework so there is a little delay. Cecilia reminded everyone that the deadline to submit proposals to their committee is Dec 1 to Dec 15. Betsy has ordered plants and plugs to arrive in late September and which need to be protected from deer and also need water. Tina offered to take them. Cecilia also noted that the furniture for the hospital garden will be ready in the spring. The committee will review proposals in January and present to the Executive Committee in February for a vote.

Historian: Susan West

Susan is working on the best storage arrangement for our items and organizing our records according to the GCA criteria. She mentioned it is a learning process. Susan's goals are to understand what is needed for our new website, to consider obtaining an oral history from some of our senior members and to continue the monthly history minutes which she notes are to "amuse, instruct and inspire" and encourage ongoing discussion about our past.

Seedling: Emily Grand

Emily was not able to be present but Beth noted that we have a great class of new members of all ages which we are excited about.

Visiting Gardens: Varner Redmon

Varner noted that she has some ideas for trips but that our schedule seems to be so busy. She will try to coordinate in the future. She reported that the Ward Pound Ridge Wildflower Garden is coming along. They have about \$10,000 remaining in the budget after the fencing and new gate, plants and supplies and labor. They have created a woodland aesthetic by using material from the garden, using the trees for steps and furniture, and using woodchips for new paths. The plant list is based on plants used in the 1950's. Some of the ongoing work is to create a foot bridge over the stream bed and steps going up to the outdoor classroom. Additionally on their wish list is hoping to have the stone bridge repaired and pointed, maintaining the perimeter around the fence, removing invasives, widening some paths, developing a good maintenance plan with Ward Pound Ridge, labelling plants and tree removal. Some of the wish list will be done by Westchester County. Varner noted that the garden used to be filled with invasives and is now filled with gorgeous native plants which have all made it through the draught. Varner discussed some of the groups that will be using the garden and said that Tako has been amazing to work with. She mentioned that Betsy Mitchell is going to help her refresh the John Jay Garden. Beth thanked Varner and Betsy for their important work and said that the club will find a time to revisit the garden in the spring.

Yearbook: Liddy Baker

Liddy reported that the yearbook will be ready for the October membership meeting. A discussion ensued about how to incorporate the yearbook in our new website.

Website: Nancy Vincent

Nancy reported that Varner has graciously agreed to cochair the new website design which she is thrilled about. Maureen Rooney has started the mechanics of the site and the initial deposit was paid. They will have 3 templates for the design in the next few weeks. Chris Frisbee chaired a committee for the first page photography. One of Diane Lewis's photos was chosen. Each committee will have a page.

Joyce Corrigan is editing the pages and has already received information from several committees. Nancy asked everyone to please give their information to Joyce.

Zone Meeting: Nancy Kronenberg and Heather Langham

Heather reported that Leslie Wortmann and Kerry Wilson are cochairing the flower show. Nancy and Heather are in charge of the 2 days of meetings that will take place. The two important organizational jobs are (1) business meetings and (2) hospitality. Heather reminded everyone that the dates are June 20 and 21. There are 23 clubs in Zone III and 1 President and 1 Delegate will be sent from each club in addition to some GCA leaders. Approximately 80 attendees. We are hosting but our participation in the actual meeting will be small. Everyone in our club will need to participate and volunteer and a Sign Up Genius is in the works.

Meeting adjourned at 1:36 pm.

The next Executive Committee meeting will be held at the home of Jayni Chase on October 19th at 12 noon.

Respectfully,
Suzanne Bowers
Recording Secretary