

Bedford Garden Club
Minutes
Executive Committee Meeting (via Zoom)
9 am December 8, 2021

Attendance: Beth Sachs, Virginia Maybank, Cynthia Mas, Leslie Wortmann, Varner Redmon, Tina Winchester, Christine Frisbee, Kim Morris, Ellen Conrad, Cecilia Wolfson, Leslie Regan

President's Report: Beth Sachs

Beth welcomed everyone and wished them Happy Holidays. She asked that everyone keep their comments to two minutes so that the meeting will stay at one hour. She thanked everyone for their commitment and involvement. She said there was great committee leadership and increased interaction with the members, which was very positive for our club. Beth sang Leslie's praises for the fabulous two recent events that were wonderfully successful, the BYOV event in Beth's barn and the Greens Day event at Westmoreland Sanctuary, which was extremely well planned and presented. Beth said she continues to explore BGC projects for Olmsted 200 and had recently spoken with Dede Petri, past President of GCA and current President of the National Association for Olmsted Parks who had a number of inspiring suggestions which we will be exploring in the new year. The Nature Program continues to go well, with a great visit to Ward Pound Ridge last weekend. She said more leads will be welcome for next year's Nature series. Beth reported that that Suzanne Bowers would not be able to attend this meeting, but Christine Frisbee agreed to take the minutes. She mentioned that Emily Grand had a family emergency and she would not be present today.

Minutes: A motion was made to waive the reading of the minutes from the November 10th, 2021 Executive Committee meeting and was seconded. The minutes were then unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report: Virginia Maybank

Virginia noted that there was little to report. She did not have a formal report but said there was approximately \$4200 made on Greens Day. She said that dues were still coming in and there was resistance from a few members to pay their dues. She has sent a couple of reminders. She asked if she should contact the people who had not paid. There was a consensus that they should be contacted.

Standing Committee Reports:

Civic Affairs and Conservation: Ellen Conrad and Jayni Chase

Ellen said people were stepping up and taking active roles on the committee. An email will be sent to everyone in January recommending "New Year's Resolutions". Ellen said that Rusticus was planning on showing the hour-long invasives film "Uninvited" at the Bedford Playhouse in January and that the BGC might partner with Rusticus as co-sponsors of the evening which will address a range of invasive regional threats. Ellen pointed out that in addition to invasive

plants, one of our newest invasive concerns is the Asian Jumping Worm which is harmful to both gardens and forests because they are vigorous consumers of the “duff” in forests and make it difficult for natives or small trees to take root. Varner said that you can see the difference between healthy worms and this harmful species, as healthy worms have a red ring around them while invasive Asian Jumping worms are longer and have a white ring around them. Ellen said that while large-scale elimination is difficult, gardeners can get rid of the worms by putting them in hot water with a few drops of dishwashing detergent. The worms love to eat wood chips so it is recommended to avoid using wood chips in your garden as they may attract worms which will follow bark paths into forest interiors.

Floral Design: Leslie Wortmann

Leslie thanked everyone who helped at the recent Floral Design events: The BYOV Day and Greens Day. She said they had a very successful BYOV day. It was a good group, and everyone enjoyed doing their arrangements. It was wonderful having it in Beth Sach’s barn and it was set up to have room for everyone. Anita took pictures of the arrangements. There were volunteers to help set up and cleanup which made it easier. Greens Day, on December 1st at Westmoreland Sanctuary, was a wonderful event and had the largest Greens Day gathering thus far. There were several decorating demonstrations. Leslie said that the sales went very well. She said she had great participation from many for assisting with the sales and making the presentations. One highlight was that wreaths were decorated and delivered for many non-profits and village buildings in the area. It took a lot of coordination and help from many people, but all goals were achieved. Everyone agreed it was a huge success and thanked Leslie for her hard work. Leslie noted that she would like people to send her new ideas for the flowers for purchase next year. She wants to keep it fresh and have things people will buy.

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

Varner said there is good attendance at their meetings. They continue to document their gardens. For the upcoming January meeting they are going to have someone come teach them how to do a scale drawing of their gardens. She said that for the January meeting they have a retired NYU professor who will talk about Public Gardens to visit and will include pocket gardens, many of which will be new to us. This will be in keeping the next year’s 2020 BGC focus on Olmstead’s influence in gardens.

Horticulture: Virginia Maybank, Tina Winchester

Tina said they had finished the bulb workshop and the trough workshop. The troughs are curing in the gardens. She reminded that the bulbs need to be watered. Tina spoke about working on next year’s calendar, specifically for the next 6 months. They are also working on the republishing of the BGC’s 1960’s publication: The Bedford Gardener’s Almanac. It will include what to do in your garden each month: what you want to have in the garden and what you should be looking out to do every month. They are close to finishing the table of contents.

Branch Out: Virginia Maybank and Heather Langham

Virginia said they are presently working on the Town Tree Ordinance. Nothing else to report.

Membership: Cynthia Mas

Cynthia reported that there are seven prospective new members. They reviewed all the four different membership categories each year. The 7 new members will fill up the current membership quota. She said that there is talk each year of changing the membership categories. There was a discussion with Cynthia and Ellen as to whether this would be a good time to discuss the issue of categories. Cynthia said that Nancy Vincent should be part of the discussion as she had brought the subject up on many occasions. Nancy was not able to be at this meeting. Ellen Conrad looked up the by-laws on the issue. It was mentioned that the specific categories we presently have in our by-laws are specific to the Bedford Garden Club and not to the Garden Club of America. After a long discussion regarding the categories, Beth thought we should discuss this towards the end of the meeting and asked if everyone could stay an extra 15 minutes to discuss the various issues. Beth noted that because there was a quorum present at the meeting, it could be decided today. A vote was taken for approval of an extra 15 minutes for the meeting. Cynthia said March 1st letters for membership are due, in April the committee decides on new members. It was decided to change the date that the new members came to the first meeting to the Plant Exchange Day instead of the Annual Meeting, as it would be more welcoming.

Photography

Anita was not present, but sent a written report that Christine presented: Photography has had very positive feedback as a new Standing committee.

We have been sending out monthly photography articles on different aspects of photography meant to broaden our perspective and try new ideas.

We are launching a winter Photography Study Group Challenge on how to use trees as great photographic subjects. We will then submit several photos each to the group for a zoom discussion and critique. We will then post a few of our favorites on the website.

Programs:

Nothing new to discuss

Seedlings:

Emily was not able to be present.

Website:

Emily was not able to be present.

Grants and Scholarships:

Cecilia reported that she and Caroline visited the Northern Westchester Hospital to see what their grant request would involve. It is a garden for the Cancer Center for patients to relax in while at the Hospital. The Hospital followed up with a grant proposal for the Garden. The request was for \$30,000 to establish a new garden which would include design, landscaping, and upkeep. Caroline said that members have offered to help with the design. Cecilia and Caroline would like to hire a landscaping company to do the work. This and upkeep of the garden all need be considered. They would like to document the progress with photos. Varner

discussed that The BGC has a long history of working with NWH and they have been the largest recipient of the BGC, so it is nice to be able to re-establish this connection with a significant gift. Cecilia said that the "Light My Fire" fall BGC Benefit event raised over \$70,000 from the auction and lantern art event and it enables the BGC to make a large gift to the hospital. It was discussed that this is a mission of the BGC to give back to the community in this way. Cecilia said they might go to private donors as well to help sustain the garden. It was questioned as to when the money would be spent. Cecilia said it will be an ongoing project and that it will be hard to know when the money requests will start. Cecilia mentioned that they usually give \$4000 in scholarships and would like to raise that to \$8,000. Varner thought that focusing on the larger project would have an impact for the hospital in a positive way.

Zone III Meeting

Heather and Nancy were not present.

Corresponding Secretary: Leslie Regan

Nothing to report.

Members Calendar: Tersey Regan

Not present. Nothing to report.

New Business:

Ellen Conrad took the lead in our review of the membership categories after our discussion with Cynthia and the Membership Committee. She looked up in the by-laws regarding the categories. Presently there are four membership categories: Active, Associate, Sustaining and Affiliate, Cynthia stated that we are having a problem accommodating prospective members because the By-Laws limit members who are in Active, Associate or Sustaining categories to a total of 125 members. If we removed Sustaining members from the count, we would have more room for new members. It was also discussed that we eliminate the class of Associate members altogether. Today, the Associate members are primarily former BGC Presidents who remain active in the club but are not in the active members category because they would have been counted for the quota of 125 members. Ellen said that many should and would like to be active members, not Associate, as they are still active. All agreed to the amendments stated below. It was voted on, with a quorum, which required us to call Leslie who had left the meeting for her vote. Cynthia called Leslie and Leslie made the quorum for the vote. Cynthia said she would tell Nancy as she was not there and would appreciate the information. The following was voted on unanimously. Ellen noted that it is required that there will be a "Special Meeting" to discuss this before the January meeting. At the January meeting it will be put before the full membership for a vote.

RESOLVED:

That the By-Laws of the Bedford Garden Club, Inc. shall be and hereby are amended as follows:

ARTICLE XII, Section 2 which currently reads as follows:

“The total membership excluding Affiliate Members shall not exceed our quota of 125 members of which the total of Associate Members shall not exceed 25 and the combined total of Active and Sustaining Members shall not exceed 100.”

Shall be amended to read as follows:

“The total membership excluding Affiliate Members and Sustaining Members shall not exceed our quota of 125 members.”

ARTICLE XII, SECTION 3 which currently reads as follows:

“There shall be four classes of membership:”

Shall be amended to read as follows:

“There shall be three classes of membership:”

ARTICLE XII SECTION 3a which currently reads as follows:

“Associate Members. Associate Members shall have full privileges of the Club, including the power of voting. Their attendance at the Regular Meetings and participation in any active work of the Club is optional. This category of membership shall not exceed twenty-five in number and shall be limited to any member who has served as a President of the Bedford Garden Club and/or has served on the zone or national level of the GCA.”

Shall be deleted in its entirety.

Ellen noted that it is required that there will be a “Special Meeting” to discuss this before the January meeting. At the January meeting it will be put before the membership for a vote.

Beth thanked everyone for their work and enthusiasm and wished everyone Happy Holidays. Meeting adjourned at 10:25 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Christine Frisbee
Recording for Suzanne Bowers, Recording Secretary