

Bedford Garden Club
Minutes
Executive Committee Meeting (via Zoom)
9 am May 11, 2022

Attendance: Beth Sachs, Virginia Maybank, Suzanne Bowers, Susan West, Jayni Chase, Tina Winchester, Leslie Wortmann, Diane Lewis, Ellen Conrad, Debbie Gourd, Anita Stockbridge, Varner Redmon, Wendy Cushman, Chris Frisbee, Heather Langham, Nancy Vincent, Vickie Morris

President's Report: Beth Sachs

Beth called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. She asked that committee heads begin to send her 3 or 4 photo highlights so that they could be included in the Annual Meeting which would be very enhancing. She also asked that all committee chairs please have their reports submitted to Liddy Baker by June 8th for inclusion in the Yearbook. Per Liddy's request, Beth asked us to give some thought as to whether the Yearbook should continue to be printed or if this should be available digitally and on our website only. Beth noted that our relationship with the Bedford Library has been formalized and that we are starting to donate copies of our guest speakers' books and other garden books. Melissa Orme will be donating her extensive collection of gardening books to the Bedford Library as a resource. Beth noted that if there are duplicates, these will be gifted to the Katonah or Pound Ridge libraries. This arrangement will be announced during the Annual Meeting and we will see the book plates that have been specially designed for us.

Beth thanked Anita for once again offering to host the seedlings at her home and asked everyone to think about how we can continue participation among the seedlings going forward.

Because some of the Executive members need to leave early today, Beth said that we will discuss the 2022/2023 proposed budget as our first item on the agenda and have a formal vote while we still have the necessary quorum.

Minutes: Suzanne Bowers

Suzanne thanked Nancy Vincent for bringing two edits to her attention in the April Executive Committee meeting minutes. Suzanne has made those corrections to the minutes.

A motion was made to waive the reading of the minutes from the April Executive Committee Meeting and was seconded. The minutes were then unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report: Virginia Maybank

Virginia reported that we began the month with \$132,000 in our checking account and did not have any revenue. It was a quiet month with very few expenses. Virginia asked that we forward any outstanding bills to her by May 31 when our fiscal year ends.

Virginia then reviewed the proposed budget for next year.

There was some discussion regarding the projected cost of the new website as Nancy and Emily received revised numbers for the website redesign. Nancy believes the amount will be closer to \$6,500 whereas we had previously budgeted \$4,000. Nancy and Emily garnered from the feedback received from the Executive Committee that most members liked the Rusticus and Millbrook websites best, which were designed by Maureen Rooney. Maureen's proposal is \$5,500 to \$6,500. Heather noted that Maureen helped with the Marsh Sanctuary website and that she is a delight to work with, truly talented, very efficient and fair. Nancy said that luckily she is available in July. A motion was made to hire Maureen Rooney as the BGC's website designer. It was seconded, and all approved unanimously. A second motion was made to adopt the draft budget with the one change made for the website design increase (\$6,500). It was seconded and unanimously approved. Beth thanked Virginia for her hard work.

Civic Affairs and Conservation: Ellen Conrad and Jayni Chase

Jayni reported that only she and Taro Letaka showed up to work on the Wildflower Garden and said that Taro would welcome any help that we can offer. They spent time weeding and pulling up mayapples which are lovely natives. Varner said that next time it will be planned well in advance and that she would send out a sign up sheet once the plants that were ordered come in. Ellen said they are about to send out a letter to the membership to ask who would be interested in having their property evaluated for invasives by Rob and his team at Mianus River Gorge. They are taking 20 properties to start. Homeowners would receive a full description and their invasives would be flagged. Please let Ellen know if anyone has a landscaper they would like trained in the identification and removal of invasives. Ellen and Jayni are also thinking of organizing a trip to Earth Tones, a nursery and native plant center, one of the best in New England and CT.

Floral Design: Leslie Wortmann

Ginger Getz will be doing the arrangement for the May plant exchange meeting. Chris Frisbee has kindly offered to organize the tablescapes and hostessing for the Annual Meeting at Caramoor.

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

Varner said she did not have much to report. They are hoping to organize a meeting at Heather's to help members document their own garden.

Varner noted that she and Emily have spoken about restructuring the volunteer sign up for the gardens we care for: the John Jay Homestead Sundial Garden and the Court House. She said that the gardens need help and we need to find a way to get more members involved.

Horticulture: Virginia Maybank and Tina Winchester

Virginia and Tina are working on the upcoming committee workshop on May 25th. They reported on the Plant Exchange that will take place on May 18th, and their work on updating the BGC Almanac. Heather noted the gift bag that was given at the recent Annual Meeting which featured the plant of the year, Blue Moon Flox, and said that it would be great to do something similar at our Zone meeting next June.

Branch Out: Heather Langham and Virginia Maybank

Heather thanked Diane Lewis for putting them in touch with Nina Bassuk, a professor at Cornell, and a discussion ensued as to the wonderful information and technology there is available for urban tree planting to allow for adequate growth and development.

Membership: Cynthia Mas

No report. Everyone is excited about Anita's seedling event that she is hosting at her home to see her primroses and which gives the seedlings an opportunity to get to know each other in an informal setting.

Photography: Anita Stockbridge

Anita reported that they held a very successful photography workshop at Westmoreland Sanctuary. Following a 45 slide show by Patrick Carney, the group took photos of ephemerals in bloom and learned a lot. Anita noted that all classes in the Photography show at the Annual Meeting are full. She was able to borrow exhibition panels from Rusticus and attended the Annual Meeting to see how their photography show was mounted and presented. Wendy Cushman applauded Anita for the amazing work she has done with the Photography committee, making it fun, interesting and exciting.

Seedlings: Emily Grand

No report.

Programs: Michaela Beitzel and Kim Morris

Kim is excited about next week's Plant Exchange and the painting demonstration by artist and author, Virginia Johson. Cecelia Wolfson will be engaging Virginia in a discussion which should be very interesting.

Website: Emily Grand and Nancy Vincent

Report given above.

Zone III meeting: Heather Langham and Nancy Kronenberg

Heather reported that they are working on expenses and how to structure them, and that she and Nancy will speak with Virginia separately.

Corresponding Secretary: Leslie Regan

Beth applauded Leslie for the terrific job she has done all year as Corresponding Secretary and thanked Tersey for the amazing work she has done on the monthly and annual BGC calendar.

Historian: Susan West

Susan thanked Beth for approving the idea of having a "history minute" at each BGC membership meeting. She is planning something for next week's Plant Exchange and for the Annual Meeting. She is in awe of the BGC's history and said that it will take a lot more time and some new resources to organize it all. It was mentioned that there should be a vertical drop down on our new website for the Club's history.

New Business:

Beth noted that she is thrilled the 2022/2023 budget has been approved and thanked Virginia again for her hard work.

She reminded the committee heads to please remember to submit photos of some highlights for inclusion on our website and for the GCA.

The final Executive Committee meeting this year will take place at Beth's home. Beth will host a luncheon on June 8th.

Beth would like to have as much clarity as possible on next year's schedule and to firm up as many dates as possible for next year. Beth suggested that perhaps some of these could be shared at the Annual Meeting so that members could plan ahead.

There was a discussion on whether Executive Committee meetings next year should be held in person or on Zoom. The consensus was that the first and last meeting should be held in person, and all others on Zoom.

Meeting Adjourned at 10:17 am.

June 2022 Executive Committee Meeting:

The next Executive Committee Meeting will be held at the home of Beth Sach's on Wednesday, June 8th, at 12 noon.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzanne Bowers

Recording Secretary