

Bath Gardening Club & Horticultural Society

March 7, 2025 Executive Meeting Minutes

Attending – Sylvia Whalen, Kim Bonner, Jeri Love, Linda Cohen, Val Behm, Janice Firth, Joanna Sperinck, Diane Nolting, Sandra Lowman Regrets –Joanne Pearce

Welcome to Kim Bonner who has joined the Executive Committee as the Coordinator for the Pollinator Garden and Memorial Grove

Reports and Updates

Financial Report: Joanne and Laurie

Grant Updates

At the February 25, 2025 meeting, Loyalist Council approved the Bath Gardening Club and Horticultural Society's Community Grant Program/Event Stream application in the amount of \$4,948 and in-kind services of \$2,590.64. This money is earmarked for the Sunday Market in Bath; in-kind services cover the rental fee for the 2025 market season and use of the park for Merry Little Main Street..

On March 3 rd we were advised by Rob Plumley, Community Development Coordinator for Lennox and Addington County that Council had approved our application to receive funding through the Naturally L&A Activation Program. The funding is for Sunday Market in Bath happening this market season. We will receive \$1,000, plus an additional \$250 for digital marketing support administered through Naturally L&A's social media channels.

On March 3 rd we were advised by Cody Allan, Environmental Coordinator for Lafarge Canada Inc. that \$3,000 had been earmarked for the Bath Gardening Club. This request encompasses funding for our village planting and winter décor. It will now proceed through the approval process, following which we will be notified.

On March 5th, we received a cheque for \$1000.00 from Ontario OMAFRA.

Pollinator Garden and Memorial Grove: Kim Bonner

Kim's team would like to participate in [pollinator.org](https://www.pollinator.org)'s Bioblitz at our Pollinator Garden during Pollinator Week, which is scheduled for June 16-22nd. The purpose is to help collect data on the abundance and distribution of pollinators across the US, Canada and Mexico. We approached Don Taylor and he's on board. We'd also be logging info for our own purposes, which will help us determine if our "science experiments" in the Pollinator Garden and BugTel are working. The board had no objections.

For more information, here's a link to last year's Bioblitz -

<https://www.pollinator.org/pollinator.org/assets/generalFiles/2024-Bioblitz-Toolkit.pdf>

Last year our team's focus was on restoring the Pollinator Garden, this year our focus is on refreshing the BugTel structure for wood-nesting bees (replacing the drilled wood) and introducing a new habitat for ground-nesting bees. We're also looking at providing overwintering protection for insects. Since pesticide and insecticides are non-starters for an insect shelter, we're looking at an Integrated Pest Management approach by adding shelters for pest-eating machines like toads and ladybugs. Finally, we'll be adding more watering stations for pollinators.

At the February club meeting someone suggested that it would be helpful if info about the gardens was more prominent on the BGC website, and that perhaps a specific section for it would be helpful. A map showing the location was also suggested. **Action items:** Sandra will explore adding a link to a new section. Kim's team will look at providing a map and providing assistance to Sandra.

Kim requested \$300 to implement the above projects, replenishing plants, plus an obelisk trellis for the sunflowers. Other incidentals include stakes, chicken wire (protection against rabbits), compost, and money for a scavenger hunt and prizes should a tour of the gardens occur. Also, Dave and Adam had suggested that some colourful plant material in the Memorial Grove would be nice, so would need funding for that. **Action item:** Sylvia asked Kim to reach out to Joanne Pearce to determine what was budgeted for 2025, and to confirm if the stipend for Dave and Adam's work had been agreed upon.

In her new role as a Butterflyway Ranger, Kim would like to promote 'pollinator patches' in the community, with a goal to establish 12 of them. To that end, Kim would create some Pollinator Packs that cater to a variety of garden sizes, bloom colours, and sun/shade conditions. Natural Themes has a wonderful selection of pollinator-friendly plants (see <https://www.naturalthemes.com/wp-content/uploads/pollinator-habitat-guide.pdf>) Kim suggested 7 one-year old plants for \$25 might be a good starting point, which would require a 3 x 3' plot (not 7' x 7' as Kim previously reported, oops!) It was suggested that perhaps we could take orders at the BGC table at the Sunday Market, and people would return to pick them up there. Kim suggested we could include gardening tips (e.g. similar to the Pollinator Guide) and projects (e.g. how to make a bumblebee house) with the order. **Action item:** Kim to put together some sample pollinator patch pack descriptions and we'll determine next steps from there.

Sylvia brought up the OHA's feedback on the Pollinator Guide. They'd like to make it available on their site, however, they'd need to remove our club's name and make it a provincial document citing who created it, photo credits, etc. They also require that all permissions are in place, a process that Kim indicated she's not familiar with, although she believes that Fair Dealing applies since we're a non-profit, not making money from the guide and many sites have been consulted (i.e. considered research) . **Action item:** Kim to approach Pat Chown who has knowledge in this area.

Kim indicated the need to touch-up the flower board originally painted by Bonnie. **Action item:** Kim's team to reach out to Donna Mills, who has expressed an interest to help with this. **Update:** Donna Mills has agreed to help us figure out what's needed.

Kim indicated that logs are needed to replenish the wood-nesting shelters in the bugtel, and asked how we go about soliciting donations from our membership. **Action item:** Kim's team to contact Joanna Sperinck with the request, who will reach out to the members. **Update:** Carol submitted the request to Joanna, which has gone out to the members.

Bath Sunday Market: Linda Cohen

Locates

In response to Lindsay Tee suggesting we should have a locate done at the park because of vendors putting in stakes to hold their tents down I first emailed and then called Madison Hendry-Parr, operations clerk. On Feb 28th she told me someone from Township was going to the park to assess the situation and would get back to me. She did not get back to me. But initially told me that if stakes were shorter than 8" there should be no problem.

Signage

The sign we were planning to rent for May and June to sit on #33 requires a permit from the Township and a deposit of \$100. If we can't have that requirement rescinded we will forgo this sign and use the money for other advertising. Tarra has written to Township requesting this requirement be withdrawn

Tarra's revised budget was approved

Re additional park seating

Because the Township is providing an extra picnic table and we can use our advertising to suggest people bring their own chair(s) the decision was made to not purchase additional folding chairs this year.

Bath Gardening Club presence at the Sunday Market in Bath

The club is going to set up a table at the market one Sunday per month to promote the Bath Gardening Club. A request for members to come forward and organize the set up, take down and manning of the table will be sent out by email to all members. A committee to coordinate this is the most desirable approach. Linda will identify the Sunday dates and send them to Joanna to broadcast to members

Vendors

We have an increase in vendors wanting to participate at the market and for this we will be taking over more space at the park. A discussion was held on what areas could best accommodate the extra vendors. To date we have 34 full and part-time vendors signed up, split evenly between each group. That is four more than our number from last season with many new, first time vendors

Promoting the Market

Tarra has been invited to attend our April 28th BGC meeting and she will be delighted to come if she is available

Tarra will be holding a **mix and mingle at Beachside BBQ on March 29th** for all the vendors of this year's market to get together and meet and see the park. I am not available to attend as I am away. But I strongly suggest that someone from the executive attend on my behalf. I will get the time from Tarra. Appetizers will be served.

I have emailed Matt re the cost of a **feather flag** to be placed beside our table at the market this year to advertise who we are. It would say Bath Gardening Club and have a picture of our lamppost with vinca on it, our possible logo or beginnings of a logo for the club. I have asked him to price us a double sided flag, not too large and one with a base that can be used for both inside and outside use

Programming: Janice Firth

Discussion regarding the present format of meetings as business can go beyond our ideal time of ½ hours. Executive feels it is important for members to be aware of all that is happening in the club for them to feel a part of the club. The following schedule was adopted for 2025 2026. Adjustments will be made for the March, April, May and June meetings for 2025.

Recommendations

September – informal meet & greet with possible garden trivia game or activity so members get to know one another

October – AGM with no speaker

November – workshop

December – Christmas lunch

January – short business with speaker

February – business meeting and social time

March - short business with speaker

April – business meeting

May - short business with speaker

June - short business with speaker??

July/August – outings

The executive approved that this summer we spend \$200 & mileage for carpooling to the Bee Spot in Tamworth. They can accommodate up to 30 people for that cost, so we will extend an invitation to members of Collins Bay GC and the L & A GC. We will likely charge them a small fee to help offset our costs.

Meeting Start Time

Janice has contacted St John's Hall to see if we can start out meetings any earlier than 2:30.

Membership Ad Hoc Committee: Diane Nolting

The Executive approved the printing of 500 postcards based on Sandra Lowman's draft design. The design features colour photos of the various activities that BGC undertakes and contact information is presented on the back in black ink. These will be distributed through local merchants, at the Sunday Market and in Welcome Packages for new residents at Loyalist Estates.

Will use Shirley Miller's artwork on the postcard

Burke's Printing submitted a quote for \$249 plus taxes and set up fee

Amendments will be submitted to Burke's by Diane

Will aim to have them ready for the Community in Blooms event on April 5th.

Publicity: Jeri Love

Jeri indicated a request from the prison in Napanee to participate with a gardening initiative. It was decided that the membership would be made aware of this request and if someone is interested they would be directed to Jeri for the contact information.

There have been a number of requests from community groups to offer workshops, information booths, educational talks etc. and Sylvia suggested that this might be the time to develop a Community Engagement Committee. Action. Sylvia to bring to the membership to gauge interest.

Planting: Val Behm

Planting Day is May 22nd, 10am

Tristan will be doing the watering again

Discussing additional watering support with Darrell at Loyalist Township

Website: Sandra Lowman

Request received from a BGC member to add a marketplace feature to our website. Executive declined to proceed as there other websites available to do this.

Sandra reminded members to submit their volunteer hours.

Next Meeting

May 12 1 pm

Location to be determined