

**WILLIAMSTOWN GARDEN CLUB
ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES
October 11, 2022 at 1:00 p.m.
St. John's Church Lower Room**

DRAFT – for approval October 2023
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A. CALL MEETING TO ORDER: President Maria Siskind called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m., following our annual Potluck Luncheon organized by Linda Dragat and Betty Iannitelli. There were 35 attendees.

B. WELCOME: Maria welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted new members present: Sandey Goodbody, Melanie Mowinski, Margo Melito and Louise Rutland. She announced upcoming programs for this year:

Tuesday, Nov. 8 at 1:00 pm at Williamstown Rural Lands:
“From Garden to Table” with Prof. Darra Goldstein.

Tuesday, Dec. 6 at 1:00 p.m.
Holiday Greens Workshop at The Harper Center
Tuesday, Dec. 13 at noon, location TBD
Holiday Luncheon

A. POWERPOINT AND REPORTS:

1. President's Report (Maria Siskind):
 - a) Maria noted our very successful plant sale and thanked Karen Pellegrini for organizing this and Club members for their support and participation. Our club is doing very well.
 - b) We hope to identify a Vice President soon.
2. Treasurer's Report (Marilyn Faulkner):
 - a) Marilyn reported on year-to-date income and expenses and the projected budget for the 2022 fiscal year.
3. Corresponding Secretary's Report (Anne Tiffany):
 - a) Bereavement notes and flowers have been sent to members and their families: Linda Dragat, Susan Hyde, Dottie Edgerton, Janet Mayer and Anne Short, and a donation to the Food Pantry was made to

honor Nancy Gaudette's passing.

- b) Get well notes and flowers have been sent to Grant Sun, Karen Pellegrini, Janet Mayer, Joan Wright, Linda Dragat, Marilyn Faulkner, Linda Conway and Stephanie Johnson.
- c) Thank you notes were sent to Liz Seaman and the Alice Shaver Fund for their donations and to the American Legion for their acknowledgement of the Club's work.

4. Civic Beautification Reports:

- a) Elaine Neely reported on Field Park, presenting a brief history of the gardens. After a 2010 rotary reconstruction destroyed existing gardens, a landscape architect was hired to design a garden on the west end to greet visitors arriving from the south. The garden's split rail fence is a reminder of the land's historic use: livestock grazing. Only from 2010 onward has the garden had its own water supply. This year a car accident damaged the east garden. It was repaired by our Field Park team. Because of cutbacks at Countryside Landscaping the Field Part team is applying mulch to the gardens this year.
- b) Kathy McKnight reported on containers and annuals. She noted the very large number of containers the Club currently maintains and the maintenance schedule: sign ups in early spring, planting just before Memorial Day, deadheading and management during summer, removing frost-killed foliage in October. The town now waters containers, whereas members formerly carried their own water. Denny Meneghelli will lead containers/annuals this coming year, assisted by Louise Rutland, Margo Melito and Melanie Mowinski.
- c) Maria Siskind thanked Kathy and Joan for their outstanding service to the annuals program as they step back.
- d) Bob Kampe reported on the Sally Tenney Osborne and Town Hall gardens. A very strong crew maintains these gardens, gains in groundcover were notable, and they are happy with the progress they have made this year.

5. Karen Pellegrini reported on Program planning for 2023: Programs for the coming year must be set by mid-February in order to be included in the Yearbook for the coming season. Ideas and support from membership are

- requested. The committee needs additional members. Separate checks will be needed in December for annual dues and the Holiday Luncheon. Luncheon checks will be due at sign-up.
6. Kathy McKnight reported on Membership. There are 62 Regular Members, 9 Associate and 10 Honorary Members, for a total of 81. Four members passed away this year and one left the area. Kathy is seeking two Members to assist with the 2023 Handbook and subsequently take over responsibility from her and Susan Pike.
 7. Kathy McKnight reported on Scholarships. WGC presents two scholarships per year to seniors at Mount Greylock. This year's recipients were Ryan Goss, studying at the University of Rochester, and Madison Machaffee, at UMass Amherst. Both are interested in Environmental Studies plus Geology for Ryan and Dance for Madison. Kathie Jones urged members to alert local students to National Garden Club Federation scholarships of up to \$4,000 to students interested in pursuing environmental, landscape, agricultural, city planning, sustainability and similar programs who are entering four-year colleges or graduate study.
 8. Bob Kampe reported for the Nominating Committee. This year's slate included President – Maria Siskind, Treasurer – Marilyn Faulkner, Recording Secretary – Karen Parker, Corresponding Secretary – Joan Wright, Civic Beautification (CB) Annuals – Denny Meneghelli, CB Perennials – Elaine Neely and Betty Iannitelli, Communications – Susan Montiel, Membership – Kathy McKnight, and Programs – Karen Pellegrini. There was no nominee for Vice President. Bob Kampe was nominated from the floor but declined and M.J Downing volunteered for consideration. All nominees were approved by unanimous vote.
 9. The following recommendations for other committee chairs were suggested by the Nominating Committee: Nominating Committee - Linda Dragat, Horticulture - Diane Van Kempen, Publications – Susan Pike and Kathy McKnight, Publicity – Linda Conway, Scholarships – Kathy McKnight, Historian – Patricia Siskind.
 10. President Maria Siskind thanked two long-term leaders for their service to the Club. Karen Pellegrini resigned as President in June after a five-year term, and Anne Tiffany resigned after twenty years as Corresponding Secretary. Both were honored by very hearty applause and gifts from the Club. Each will

continue with committee work.

B. NEXT MEETING DATE: Tuesday, November 8, 1:00 p.m. at Rural Lands Foundation.

C. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 2:05 p.m.

Submitted by

Karen Parker, Recording Secretary