

**WILLIAMSTOWN GARDEN CLUB**  
**GENERAL MEETING MINUTES**  
**September 13, 2022 at 1:00 p.m.**  
**Milne Public Library**

- A. **CALL MEETING TO ORDER:** President Maria Siskind called the meeting to order shortly after 1:00 p.m. Twenty-one members and guest Melanie Mowinski attended.
- B. **WELCOME:** Maria welcomed everyone to the meeting, thanked Diane van Kempen for filling in for our speaker who could not attend due to illness, and thanked the Hospitality Committee for their delicious work.
- C. **MINUTES FROM PRIOR MEETINGS:** Maria reminded Members on behalf of Susan Montiel that all recent General Meeting minutes are posted on the Club website. Corrections should be sent to Recording Secretary Karen Parker.
- D. **REPORTS:**
1. **President's Report (Maria Siskind):**
    - a) Maria noted our very successful plant sale and praised members for their participation. Our club is doing very well.
    - b) We hope to identify a Vice President soon.
  2. **Corresponding Secretary's Report (Anne Tiffany):**
    - a) Flowers have been sent to Doris McNabb and Stephanie Johnson upon their recent illnesses and Nancy Gaudel was honored by a donation to a local food pantry in lieu of flowers.
  3. **Civic Beautification Report (Kathy McKnight):**
    - a) Kathy noted that Louise Rutland has joined Denny Meneghelli in organizing container plantings next year. Denny, Kathy and Louise will host a meeting on September 14 to evaluate the current year's container selections and plan for 2023. Members are encouraged to attend. Maria thanked Kathy McKnight and Joan Wright for their outstanding service to the club, to a hearty round of applause.
  4. **Plant Sale (Karen Pellegrini):**
    - a) This year's sale was a close second to last year's in number of plants

and other objects sold (345) at an average of \$9/\$10 each. Gross sales: \$3,475, net approx. \$2,900 after materials.

- b) Suggestion made to set up a visible membership station at the Plant Sale in the future, with brochures and membership forms and to have one club member assigned to set up and staff it. Multiple people expressed an interest in joining.
  - c) Suggestion to place membership brochures in the library and at the Information Booth at the bottom of Spring Street.
5. 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee (Karen Pellegrini):
- a) WGC was established in 1933 during the Great Depression.
  - b) The committee will hold a meeting soon for a first run through suggestions. Ten ideas have been submitted so far from 5 individuals, including an idea for the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. More ideas are welcome!
6. Nominating Committee (Bob Kampe):
- a) Members currently include Linda Dragat, Elaine Neely and Bob Kampe (chair).
  - b) Discussions so far have included legacy (transition) planning, spreading lighter assignments among a greater proportion of members, and trying to achieve at least two members per committee supporting the chair.
  - c) Membership is a big push this year.
  - d) We need a club vice-president and a chair and members for the Publicity Committee.
7. Programs Committee (Karen Pellegrini):
- a) Kris Allen has joined the Programs Committee.
  - b) Karen Pellegrini will take over for Linda Conway to lead planning for this year's Holiday Luncheon.
  - c) The Programs Committee needs suggestions for 2023 events including gardens within a one-hour radius.
  - d) Upcoming events include:
    - i. Annual Meeting and Potluck Luncheon on Tuesday, Oct. 11: lunch at noon, meeting at 1. St. John's Church Lower Room.
      - 1. Please tell Betty Iannitelli or Linda Dragat what you plan to bring for the luncheon.
      - 2. Officers for the coming year will be elected.

- ii. “From Garden to Table” with Darra Goldstein on Nov. 8, at 1:00 p.m. at Williamstown Rural Lands.
- iii. Annual Holiday Luncheon on December 13 – location TBD.

E. GUEST SPEAKER: Diane Van Kempen spoke about good and bad garden critters – how to protect the good guys and restrain the bad ones. Her visuals, including reading list, will be on the club website.

1. Resist the urge to over-clean gardens in the fall. Insects need hollow stems 12 – 18” tall and amphibians and butterflies need leaf-litter. Birds need seed-heads intact. Don’t clean up too early. May is a good time.
2. Destroy egg masses of green praying mantises.
3. Grow pollinator plants – consider teaming with neighbors in a pollinator pathway.
4. Decrease the size of your lawn.
5. Use no pesticides and reduce/eliminate fertilizer use.
6. Use some native plants (they require less water).
7. Plant grasses that mature at different times.
8. Barberries and winged euonymus are non-native tick-havens. Destroy them.

F. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: none

G. NEW BUSINESS: none

H. COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS: none

I. NEXT MEETING DATE: Tuesday, October 11.

J. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:25 p.m.

Submitted by  
Karen Parker, Recording Secretary