

WILLIAMSTOWN GARDEN CLUB BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

February 15, 2024, at 3:30 p.m. via zoom.

- A. CALL MEETING TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 3:30 p.m.
- B. CONFIRM QUORUM: Attending: Maria Siskind, Betty Iannitelli, Kathy McKnight, Susan Montiel, Carol Oshinsky, Karen Parker, Karen Pellegrini, Diane Van Kempen, Pat Wilk, Joan Wright. Absent: Margo Melito, Denny Meneghelli, Elaine Neely
- C. APPROVE MINUTES:
 - 1) Minutes from the October 10, 2023 Board Meeting were moved to approve, seconded, and approved by unanimous vote.
- D. REPORTS:
 - 1) President's Report (Maria Siskind):
 - a. Maria polled board members for availability for the next meeting. We settled on Thursday, March 28 at 3:30. We did not determine a set weekday and time for the remaining meetings of this year.
 - b. We discussed the signatories on our bank account, and agreed to remove Marilyn Faulkner, our former treasurer, from that list. This leaves Maria Siskind, Treasurer Carol Oshinsky, and Susan Montiel as signatories; Karen Parker, incoming President, will be added when convenient. Discussion held about account signatories and accountability on the use of the debit card. To generate our budget and use Quicken, the finance chair must have access to our accounts, and therefore be a signatory. The Club has one debit card, in the name of the Williamstown Garden Club, and it is in the possession of Carol Oshinsky, who needs to use it for the following three regular, monthly expenditures: Zoom, Constant Contact, and the expenses involved in maintaining our website; no other use is planned. There is only one checkbook, and Carol has possession of it. Other signatories do not have checks or debit cards. In an emergency the club president could obtain a standing check from the bank. **It was noted that the Treasurer and President have a legal responsibility to make sure everything is done correctly and with debit cards, it's a harder paper trail to follow, though all uses both in the past and currently are supported by receipts tracked by the Treasurer.** We settled our discussion agreeing with the simplified process we now have in place.
 - c. We considered our responsibilities as a club in response to the passing of current or former club members, or their partners. Should we notify club

members of someone's death? We discussed some recent passings, and agreed that the President would send an e-mail to all club members in response to a member obituary. Brief discussion held on memorial gifts.

2) 1st Vice President's Report (Karen Parker):

The feedback on the 2023 WGC Holiday party at the Williams Faculty Club was overwhelmingly positive. She would like us to reserve that location in advance for the 2024 party. We decided to wait on that decision.

3) Programs Committee (Diane Van Kempen):

Diane shared the impressive lineup of programs this year, as follows:

- April 9, ten Ways to Garden Smarter, with speaker Chris Ferraro, at St. John's
- April 16, propagation workshop at Diane's home, 66 Orchard Lane, Williamstown
- May 15, How to select plants at a nursery, with Ken Gooch, at the Milne Library
- June 13, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., a field trip to learn about the peonies at Hildene
- July 9, Honey bees and native bees, with beekeeper Amy Musante, at the , Sweetwood Auditorium, Cold Spring Road in Williamstown
- August 6, potting party, at Diane's home, 66 Orchard Lane, Williamstown
- August 13, Meadowing in the Berkshires, with Hank Art, 140 Scott Hill Road, Williamstown
- September 6, Our annual Plant and Bake Sale, 9:30 a.m. — noon, on the Paresky steps, Williams College
- September 10, Principles of Container Design, with Susan Pardoe, at the Sweetwood Auditorium.
- October 8, Annual Meeting, potluck luncheon, at St. John's Church
- November 12, Floral Arranging: color theory and design, with Wendy Hybl Fannin at the Harper Center
- December 3, Greens workshop
- December 10, Holiday Luncheon.

5) Membership (Kathy McKnight)

a. We currently have 53 regular members, eight associate members, and ten honorary members. Six people resigned from the club.

b. Our annual membership booklet will be going to press in two weeks. We still need photographs. Any members who have images we could use should submit them to Elinor Goodwin at The Print Shop.

c. Stephanie Johnson, a former president who moved out of Williamstown last fall, and misses the club. Kathy offered to make her an honorary member, and reported that she was thrilled. Motion made and seconded to make Stephanie an honorary member; unanimous approval.

Discussion held on possible honorary memberships for Elaine Neely and Marilyn Faulkner because of their long history of contributions to the club; decision tabled to future meeting.

6) Treasurer's Report (Carol Oshinsky):

Balance in checking account:	\$ 8,175.00
Outstanding checks	\$ 318.90
Available funds in checking account:	\$ 7,856.10

Balance in money market account:	\$ 8,471.00
----------------------------------	-------------

Total available funds	\$16,327.10
-----------------------	-------------

7) Civic Beautification Annuals Report - Karen Parker read aloud a report from Denny Meneghelli: Containers at the South Williamstown rotary construction site will not be planted this year. The annuals team is working closely with Matt Zema to obtain the right plant material for each container. Discussion followed: new boxes will be needed for the Route 2 bridge upon completion. The club will make a donation to the Library to honor its 150th anniversary. We agreed to table this report until our next meeting.

8) Civic Beautification Perennials Report

We agreed to table this report until our next meeting.

9) Communications (Susan Montiel)

Susan said there are changes to our website; she would like to share them at a later meeting when she can share the screen with us and there isn't such a full agenda. She feels that Constant Contact is a warm and personal presence for members, and asks us all to send her items when we have information that we want to go out to the membership.

F. NEW BUSINESS:

Discussion of plant sale for 2024. It was noted that past president Karen Pellegrini left us with a high standard that we weren't sure we could maintain, given the age of many of our members. We have chosen to simplify this year's plant sale, move it to the Paresky steps, and no longer offer any large, unwieldy, and undesirable plants even if donated. We will order the most popular varieties, such as succulents and bamboo, and we will propagate white striped spider plants, philodendrons, and jade. We will plant these in April, and they will be kept under a plant light at Diane VanKempen's house until our sale. We have scheduled the sale for the first week of school, when students are looking for plants to decorate their dorm rooms. We will be accepting credit cards and are considering adding Venmo this year. We discussed the

idea of having a terrarium workshop for WGC members, so that we could create terrariums for the sale. We agreed to have a small bake sale, featuring the most popular items—cookies!

G: NEXT BOARD MEETING: Thursday, March 28 at 3:30 pm via Zoom.

H: ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 5:16 p.m.

Submitted by Pat Wilk, Recording Secretary