

**WILLIAMSTOWN GARDEN CLUB**  
**ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES**  
**October 10, 2023 at 1:00 p.m.**  
**St. John's Church Lower Room**

- A. CALL MEETING TO ORDER: President Maria Siskind called the meeting to order at 1:13 p.m., following our annual Potluck Luncheon organized by Betty Iannitelli and Louise Rutland. There were 27 attendees plus three guests: Ginny Miller (Honorary Member of our club, recently returned to Williamstown), Vana Nespov, Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts' South Central and Western District Director and her husband Alfred Whitehouse.
- B. WELCOME: Maria welcomed everyone to the meeting, thanked the Hospitality Committee and members for providing delicious luncheon dishes, and introduced guests above. She thanked Linda Conway and Betty Iannitelli for facilitating the chocolate tortes for today's dessert. She thanked our members for a successful Plant and Bake Sale, noting \$2,700 in gross income and thanked the Nominating Committee for its hard work in bringing a full and fine set of candidates forward.
- C. VOTE TO APPROVE 2022 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES: Minutes were approved by unanimous vote.
- D. POWERPOINT AND REPORTS:
1. President's Report (Maria Siskind):
    - a. Maria noted our very successful plant/bake sale with \$2,670 net revenue and thanked Diane Van Kempen and Carol Oshinsky for their leadership and all members who participated.
    - b. She thanked Marilyn Faulkner for her many years of service as treasurer as she steps down.
  2. Treasurer's Report (Marilyn Faulkner):
    - a. Marilyn reported on year-to-date income and expenses and the projected budget for the 2024 fiscal year.
    - b. The 2024 projected budget was approved by unanimous vote.
  3. Corresponding Secretary's Report (Joan Wright):
    - a. Joan has sent get well and bereavement notes and flowers to several members and thanked three donors for gifts to the club.
  4. Civic Beautification Reports:
    - a. Betty Iannitelli reported for the Field Park crew. On the east end large miscanthus grasses were cut back in width, the town planted shrubs on north side of stone stairway, flat stones were added for weeding spots, and the club has taken back mulching duties from the town. On the west end ajuga was added.

- b. Louise Rutland reported for the STO crew. Small hostas are doing well. Balancing sun and shade was a challenge this year.
  - c. Denny Meneghelli reported on containers and annuals and thanked Louise and Margo for their help. This was a new planting team, and many varied plantings were tried in different container sites.
5. Programs Committee (Karen Parker):
  - a. Karen reported on Programs from Nov. 2022 to current year, providing a brief description of each program and thanking each committee facilitator. Members attending the Holiday Luncheon are urged to bring a check to the November meeting. November 22 will be the last day for signing up.
6. Membership (Kathy McKnight):
  - a. Kathy noted two new members (Paulette O'Brien and Jeff Watson). Full membership is currently 76.
  - b. She reported on the Penny Social. No sign-ups but a nice community event.
  - c. In her role as Yearbook coordinator, she asked that programs be set by mid-February to be included in the Yearbook for the coming season.
  - d. Williamstown Historical Museum has received an anonymous gift of two boxes of early WGC papers and photographs. Kathy read from the minutes of the first WGC meeting and asked for help in building club archives since 2003.
  - e. She requested that members send photos to Elinor Goodwin at the Print Shop for club archives and easy access.
7. Scholarships (Kathy McKnight):
  - a. Kathy reported on the two scholarships our club presents annually to Mt. Greylock Regional High School students and our contribution to the scholarships administered by the Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts.
8. Nominating Committee (Kathy McKnight and Susan Montiel co-chairs):
  - a. The following candidates were put forth for consideration for elected position and were approved by unanimous vote:
    - President, Maria Siskind
    - First VP, Karen Parker
    - Second VP, Margo Melito
    - Treasurer, Carol Oshinsky
    - Recording Secretary, Pat Wilk
    - Corresponding Secretary, Joan Wright
    - Civic Beautification Annuals, Denny Meneghelli
    - Civic Beautification Perennials for Field Park: Elaine Neely and Betty Iannitelli
    - Communications: Susan Montiel

- Membership: Kathy McKnight
- Programs: Diane Van Kempen

b. The following Committee Chairs have been appointed by the President:

- Finance, Susan Montiel
- Historian, Linda Conway
- Horticulture, Diane Van Kempen
- Hospitality, Betty Iannitelli and Louise Rutland
- Nominating Committee – no candidates
- Publications, Kathy McKnight and Parveen Hajizadah
- Publicity, Carolyn Umlauf
- Scholarships, Kathy McKnight

E. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 2:04 p.m.

Submitted by

Karen Parker, Recording Secretary

Approved on October 8, 2024