

**WILLIAMSTOWN GARDEN CLUB
GENERAL MEETING MINUTES**

August 13, 2024, 9:30 a.m.

**Hank Art's Home on Scott Hill Road
"Meadowing in the Berkshires"**

- A. President Maria Siskind called our meeting to order at about 9:40 on Hank's terrace. Eva Heekin introduced our neighbor and Williams College Professor of Environmental Studies and Biology Emeritus to the dozen spry WGC members in attendance.
- B. Hank Art described the history of the land: forest until 1750, then farmland, and then a residence with a horse paddock. He and his wife Pam purchased the land in 1988 and began restoring pollinator-friendly native hardy grasses and plants to two acres of former meadow the following year. The land was stripped to bare earth, burned each spring, and mowed each November, after migrators had moved on. Now, twenty-five years later, some forty native plant species mingle and bloom in tallish sweeps throughout the meadow as it descends toward woods and marshland with the Taconic Mountain Range rising as a backdrop.
- C. We walked with Hank on sweeping, circling, mowed paths as he identified various plants and grasses and pointed out where they had spread through sections of the meadow. He shared tips on compost-sourcing and identified some of the rare hawthorns and shrubs along the meadow's edge. This was an inspiring event that touched all who attended.
- D. Afterward we enjoyed conversation and hospitality on the terrace.
- E. NEXT MEETING DATE: Tuesday, September 10 at 1:00 pm at St. John's Church Lower Level. John Pitroff will speak on "Second Chance Composting".

Submitted on behalf of Pat Wilk, Recording Secretary, by Karen Parker, 1st Vice President