

**WILLIAMSTOWN GARDEN CLUB**  
**July 9, 2024 GENERAL MEETING**  
**1:00 P.M. Milne Library**

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER: President Maria Siskind called the meeting to order at 1:09 pm.
2. WELCOME: Maria welcomed everyone to the meeting. In attendance today were new member Karen Lobdell and Susan Smith, with 18 members and guests present.
  - A. The minutes from the June 2024 meeting have been sent via Constant Contact for review. Motion made and seconded to approve the minutes, approved.
3. PRESIDENT'S REPORT (Maria):
  - A. Please sign up for refreshments and other activities; sign-up sheets are on the table. All of today's refreshment were provided by Betty Iannitelli and Louise Rutland.
  - B. Our next meeting is on August 13 at 9:15 am for a garden visit, a meadow exploration. Carpool location is at the MGRHS parking lot at 9 am. RSVPs are required.
  - C. Maria wondered how member's beautification containers were going.
4. Membership report (Kathy):
  - A. Guests present today are invited to join. New members were introduced.
  - B. Scholarships given to MGRSH students; Kathy shared the thank you notes she received. Both recipients plan to use the award for their tuitions.
5. Houseplant Sale: Kathy reminded members that they can still purchasing house plants to divide for sale. The sale is September 6 and we are back at the Paresky steps, 10am to 1 pm (unless we are sold out first). Please plan to join. Discussion held of the local jumping worms and importance of not bringing outdoor plants to the plant sale.
6. Treasurer's report (Carol): Carol reported on current balances and outstanding checks. No questions were asked.
7. NEW BUSINESS: Carol introduced our speaker, Amy Musante, Beekeeper, whose presentation entitled "Pollinators and the Flowers They Love" was enjoyed by all the members and guests. It was a very entertaining talk about the importance of bees to our food supply including cattle raising. Amy gave us an explanation of how pollination occurs, the different types of pollinators, and suggested flowers to promote pollination. Amy invited visitors to her farm (Musante Farm in Dalton) and had honey available for sale today.

Tips to promote pollinators:

- Plant natives
- Stagger your blooms
- Create a diverse habitat
- Plant in clumps so pollinators can find them
- Plant milkweed and other larval substances

- Provide water source (less important in our area)
- Provide mud puddles or a damp salt lick
- Avoid hybrids, especially those with no pollen, nectar or fragrance
- Eliminate pesticides, and if you use, follow the label
- Include larval host plants in your landscape

8. COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS: questions and comments from the audience were addressed.

9. NEXT MEETING DATE: Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, August 13. Members should meet at the MGRHS parking lot starting at 9:00 am to carpool to the location. Members are reminded to watch for our Constant Contact email newsletter as all new information will be shared through these newsletters. Also, check the Club website for current event dates and times.

10. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 pm. Members and guests were invited to share refreshments provided by Louise and Betty (thank you to you both!)

Submitted by

Susan Montiel on behalf of Pat Wilk, Recording Secretary