

**WILLIAMSTOWN GARDEN CLUB**  
**General Meeting**  
**August 12, 2025 at 1 p.m.**  
**Milne Public Library**

A. CALL MEETING TO ORDER: President Karen Parker called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m. There were 23 members at this meeting.

B. WELCOME: Karen thanked us all for coming, and noted it was nice to have an indoor event after we just had two outdoor visits under threat of rain. Our June meeting was a wonderful field trip and tour of The Mount, and our July meeting was a visit to the gardens of Ilona Bell in Williamstown.

C. PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Karen informed members of the sad news of the recent passing of Kathie Jones, who was a club member for more than three decades. She was a dedicated Club participant, very engaged with the Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts, and won grant support for work on the Sally Tenney Osborne Garden. She worked to make further study in horticulture, botany and environmental studies available to local students and was just great to be with. Linda Conway described her as "a quintessential garden club member for any club, anywhere". We will miss her!

Congratulations to all of our gloves-in-the-dirt members. Field Park is radiant, it seems like there's an overflowing container at every intersection in town, Town Hall is a color-explosion, pollinators at the Sally Tenney Osborne garden are happy, and our new garden at the Post Office is getting raves from passers-by.

Reminders about our upcoming Plant Sale: Our Potting Party will be at 9:00 am on Friday, August 25th at the new Green River Regenerative Farm (2480 Green River Road, just east of Five Corners on Route 43). We will be in the closest plastic greenhouse to the parking lot. Please bring the house plants you have been tending, any clean empty pots, sterile gloves and tools for scooping soil and any decorative elements you've been saving. We will also be working with succulents and bamboo. Bring water! Dress lightly! It will be warm.

You should all have received Kathy's email about the Plant Sale on the Paresky Hall steps starting at 8:30 am on Friday, September 5th. If you have not signed up for a work shift, Eva Heekin has sign-up sheets.

D. GUEST SPEAKER:

Diane Van Kempen introduced our speaker, Chris Ferrero. She is a Cornell Master Gardener, and a master speaker as well. Today she spoke to us about the color purple and what it can do for your garden. She is on the faculty at Berkshire Botanical Gardens, and a tour guide there.

She has written articles in two recent issues of Berkshire Botanical Cuttings magazine and brought us a stack of these magazines to take home. She also distributed a full color four-page handout, complete with photographs, which summarized the key points of her entertaining talk with slideshow, and a two-page handout of her "Power of Purple" plant list, including the common name, the botanical name, the color, height, width, and benefits of each plant. Her slides proved the dramatic difference that purple blooms and purple foliage can make in a landscape design, because that color family is directly across from green on the color wheel, and complements it perfectly. She spoke for a little over an hour, and the time flew by because her information was so specific and so useful.

E. NEXT MEETING: Our next meeting will be on September 9th at the Clark Lunder Center at Stone Hill. The topic: Berkshire-specific Landscape Design

F. ADJOURNMENT: Karen adjourned the meeting at 2:14. Next, members caught up with each other's news while enjoying a buffet of goodies and drinks organized by Betty Iannitelli.

Submitted by:

Pat Wilk,  
Recording Secretary