

**WILLIAMSTOWN GARDEN CLUB**  
**Board of Directors Meeting**  
**June 24, 2025 at 3:00 pm**  
**Milne Public Library and via Zoom**

- A. CALL MEETING TO ORDER: President Karen Parker called the meeting to order at 3:10. p.m. The following Board members were present: Delia Marshall, Susan Montiel (Finance chair), Carol Oshinsky, Karen Parker (via phone), Maria Siskind, Pat Wilk, Joan Wright, Betty Iannitelli. Also present were Fern Murtaugh and Diane Van Kempen. Absent: Kathy McKnight, Elaine Neely, Karen Pellegrini (ex officio)
- A. CONFIRM QUORUM: a quorum was present.
- B. APPROVE MINUTES FROM PRIOR MEETING: January 7, 2025: Joan moved to approve, Delia seconded. All voted in favor.
- C. DISCUSSION OF THE BUDGET. Everyone received a four-page handout from Susan Montiel reflecting the proposed budget from the Finance committee. Three pages detailed all budget items representing income and expenses through June 5, 2025, and the proposed draft of each line item for the 2026 budget. One page explained what the expense categories represented, and described the costs covered in different categories. The approved 2026 budget is the outcome of this meeting; we will share it with the members at the annual meeting. Susan noted that this is a proposed budget; it represents our best guess of what we are expecting to spend in the coming year.

As we went through each line item, some subjects came up for discussion. One: What are we going to do with that bridge? (the still uncompleted bridge on Route 2). There are two separate parts to our commitment here: manufacturing the boxes and planting the plantings. The bridge is a state project, but the bridge is in our town. We agreed that creating flower boxes for the new bridge will be very expensive. Kathy McKnight has been in touch with the state about their expectations. Delia Marshall agreed to review our options and assess needs and steps with Kathy when she returns from her trip.

Delia discussed some planters with problems (which ones need to be replaced, which ones have paint peeling off) and the need for a master plan for Town Hall plantings. We agreed to revisit the container budget at the end of this season,

First change in the proposed budget was Maria's request for more money budgeted for programs. We agreed to raise that amount from \$2,300 to \$2,700.

Our line item for promotion is so low; \$150 allocated, and only \$22 has been spent so far. We discussed what that includes, or should include (for example, does it include

bronze plaques saying "sponsored by Williamstown Garden Club"? ) Our budget category sheet stated this category includes anything related to getting new members, including membership brochures, flyers, signs, posters, and community events. Delia suggested new member Donna Quirk for help with this. She has experience in promotion.

Diane requested four hours of landscape design at \$100 per hour for the Sally Tenney Osborne Reading Garden at the Milne Library, which is badly in need of renovation. She recommended landscape designer Laurie Cochran.

Matthew Baya, a resident of Williamstown and a staff member in the IT Department at Williams College, has generously volunteered to assist the club with its website and other internet-related IT needs. We agreed to give him a \$200 donation as a gesture of our appreciation.

We discussed the amount of our total assets, the balance of the long-term savings in Berkshire Taconic Charitable Foundation, and our ideas about some large contributions we might make to the town. Delia made the point that when people donate to the Garden Club, they expect it to be used to beautify the town, and not to remain in a savings account. Our new budget item for the America 250 Project might provide a framework for larger garden club gifts to the town.

Joan Wright moved to approve the proposed 2026 budget of \$18,6756 (which reflects an estimated \$13,225 in income). Betty Iannitelli seconded. All were in favor.

D. NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, August 19 at 3 p.m., at Joan Wright's home, 80 Old Farm Way.

E. ADJOURNMENT: Karen adjourned the meeting at 4:18 p.m.

Submitted by:

Pat Wilk, Recording Secretary