

WILLIAMSTOWN GARDEN CLUB
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
August 19, 2025 3:00 p.m.
Home of Joan Wright, 80 Old Farm Way

- A. CALL MEETING TO ORDER: President Karen Parker called the meeting to order at 3:17 p.m. The following Board members were present: Betty Iannitelli, Delia Marshall, Kathy McKnight, Susan Montiel, Carol Oshinsky, Karen Parker, Maria Siskind, Pat Wilk, Joan Wright. Absent: Kathy McKnight, Elaine Neely, Karen Pellegrini (ex officio member).
- B. CONFIRM QUORUM: a quorum was present.
- C. APPROVE MINUTES from June 24, 2025 board meeting: We decided to table this vote, because the final edited copy of the minutes had not yet been mailed to board members. Karen and Susan agreed to make final edits; Pat agreed to send out the edited minutes with the next board meeting agenda.
- D. REPORTS:
1. President's Report (Karen Parker)
 - a) Final discussion of bylaws prior to presentation at General Meeting for membership vote. We had all received a copy of the bylaws, and went through each item together, discussing suggested changes that had been made to the text. Joan moved that the minutes be approved. Carol seconded. All voted in favor.
 - b) Recent zoom issue: At our last general meeting, several members viewing the presentation via zoom reported problems: they couldn't hear the speaker's words, and they couldn't see properly. We discussed issues with the Owl device we recently purchased, and decided that although it is capable of showing everyone present—which is excellent for a board meeting—this feature diminishes its efficiency for a general meeting, when people want to focus on the speaker, and not the club members in the audience. Suzanne Stinson has agreed to help us resolve the issue of using the Owl in larger settings.
 - c) Nominating Committee volunteers: We need experienced members to step up and join this committee. It is essential that we identify possible future leaders of our club, who have both skills and time, and mentor them as they step into new roles. We still need a vice president, and we need more input on program. Maria volunteered to serve on this committee. We complimented Delia Marshall on her work and asked her whether she would like to assume more responsibility in the club. She declined for now, citing her new role on the Conservation Commission. We brainstormed ideas for strong individuals whose gardening skills we admired. Several board members suggested names. We have a list of good people we'd like to persuade to help us. Betty stated that Louise Rutland has agreed to take over the hospitality committee. We talked about ways to make our

work known to the larger population of Williamstown, and ways to attract new members. We talked about scheduling green tours, and having some of our programs in the evening. Delia said we need an advertising campaign for recruitment. Carol said we should carry posters describing what we do in the Fourth of July parade.

2. Treasurer's report: (Carol Oshinsky)

- a) Update: Checking account balance is \$5,962.00. Money Market account balance is \$6,521. We have outstanding checks for \$27.00 and \$19.26.

3. Civic Beautification:

- a) Containers: (Delia Marshall) She reviewed the locations of container gardens that needed attention before the 2026 season, including some that need painting and some that should be replaced or discarded. She also mentioned some specific plants that thrived, and others that didn't do well. She said residents were especially pleased with the new Post Office garden, plantings at Town Hall, the planters at Hopper Road, and at the Mohegan multi-use trail. She discussed the challenge of putting new planters on the newly-constructed Route 2 bridge. We need to get permits from the Massachusetts Department of Transportation before we proceed with that project. She was pleased with the plants that we purchased from Mount Williams Greenhouses, and would like to work exclusively with them next year.

4. Communication: (Susan Montiel)

- a) Website: The new website is live. The password for the members- only section is unchanged. It is now possible for new people to go to the site, join our club, and pay their membership dues. They are able to pay with STRIPE. there is a current member directory online. The minutes of past meetings are not yet posted. We are 90 percent completed.

E. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Proposal to present honorary membership to three of our members: Marilyn Faulkner, Elaine Neely, and Karen Pellegrini. Joan moved that we honor these members for their outstanding service to our club; Karen seconded. All voted in favor.

F. NEW BUSINESS: Maria asked if we would like to participate in a large Sustainability Fair at the Milne Library on Sunday, September 21. We discussed what our participation might look like. No one volunteered to head the project. We tabled this item.

ADJOURN: Karen adjourned the meeting at 4:10 p.m.

G. NEXT MEETING DATE: October 14 following the Annual Meeting adjournment

submitted by:

Pat Wilk

Recording secretary