

**WILLIAMSTOWN GARDEN CLUB
GENERAL MEETING
September 9, 2025 at 1:00 pm
Clark Art Institute Lunder Center**

A: CALL MEETING TO ORDER: President Karen Parker called the meeting to order at 1:09 P.M.

B: WELCOME: Karen welcomed members to the meeting, and thanked the hospitality committee for providing refreshments. There were 26 people in attendance.

C: REPORTS:

1. Plant sale report (Kathy McKnight): The plant sale was a great success. We are grateful to Green River Farm for allowing us to use their greenhouse for our potting party and for storing the plants in the week prior to our sale. Our sale serves three purposes: it is a fundraiser, a way to extend knowledge of and appreciation for plants to the Williams students, and an opportunity for the Garden Club members to build camaraderie. Those of us who worked on the plant sale will be meeting after this meeting to process our ideas and suggestions for next year's sale.
2. Treasurer's report (Carol Oshinsky): Using Stripe to collect credit card payments was a stroke of genius. Thank you, Susan Montiel, for getting us started with this process. Using Stripe, it actually took less time for a charge sale than it took to collect cash and make change. The personal support we received from our contact at Stripe was stellar; he was available for problem-solving throughout the sale. Our cash proceeds from the sale were \$1,031.20. Our charged proceeds (minus Stripe fees) were \$3,314.18. Our expenditures for the sale were \$894.50. Approximately \$200 in purchased materials was donated by generous club members. Our total profit for this sale was \$3,450.88. (This is a \$796.47 increase over last year's profit of \$2654.41.) As of September 7, our checking account balance is \$6946.45, and our money market account balance is \$6,526.78. However, our cash proceeds from the sale have yet to be deposited, and our funds at Stripe have not yet been transferred.
3. President's report (Karen Parker): Nominations to fill vacant positions are due by September 14. Our vice president position is currently unfilled. We are lucky to have a deep well of good will and talent among our members, but it's important to maintain a strong rotation of leadership. Pages 5 and 6 of our handbook list board and committee positions. Please let us know if you might like to serve. Also, minutes of our past meetings are now included in our Constant Contact newsletter. If you notice any errors or omissions, please contact our secretary, Pat Wilk. In other news, our holiday luncheon will be held at the Williams Inn this year. The cost for members is \$35.00. Guests are welcome at \$42.00 per person.

D: OUR GUEST SPEAKER: Maria Siskind introduced our guest speaker, Beka Sturgis, a landscape architect with Reed Hilderbrand, a New Haven, Connecticut firm that did the landscape design for The Clark, and is currently at work creating the landscape for the new Williams College Museum of Art. The title of her presentation, "Hills and Waters," she said, is a reflection of the

things that are distinctive to Williamstown. She talked about understanding the landscape before designing a plan and explained that all of their work in Williamstown is based around the natural hills of the land, and the waters that flow through it. She talked about the way Tourists Motel has embraced its riverfront landscape, and said the new Williams College museum is “in conversation with the Clark.” She discussed the grade change on the site, the natural hills. “It needed to be open,” she told us, sharing some maps and drawings of the design, and discussing their plan for a mostly native collection of trees, shrubs, and flowers that would bring visitors joy during all seasons of the year. “Gardens are acts of hope,” she told us. “It’s an optimistic thing, to garden.” She discussed their design process, sharing images of maps, drawings, and finished landscapes from several other properties the firm has recently completed. Some members asked about plant lists, and she promised to share some specific materials with Maria.

F: NEXT MEETING DATE: Our next meeting will be the Club’s ANNUAL MEETING on Tuesday, October 14th at St. John’s Church in the lower level. A potluck luncheon will start at noon, followed by a visual and aural summary of the year’s achievements, and voting on nominees for leadership positions for the coming year.

G: MEETING ADJOURNED: Karen Parker adjourned the meeting at 2:15 p.m. Guests shared refreshments and conversation, and those who had worked on the plant sale met outside on the Lunder Center balcony.

Submitted by:

Pat Wilk,
Recording Secretary