

**WILLIAMSTOWN GARDEN CLUB
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
NOVEMBER 18, 2025**

1:00 p.m. Milne Public Library Board Room and via Zoom

- A. CALL MEETING TO ORDER: President Karen Parker called the meeting to order at 1:14 p.m.
- B. CONFIRM QUORUM: Present were Karen Parker, Betty Iannitelli, Delia Marshall, Susan Montiel, Carol Oshinsky (via zoom), Kathy McKnight, Maria Siskind, Pat Wilk, and Joan Wright.
- C. APPROVE MINUTES FROM PRIOR MEETINGS: After minor corrections, Joan moved to approve the Board of Directors meeting minutes as corrected from June 24, 2025, August 19, 2025, and October 14, 2025. Maria seconded. All voted in favor.
- D. DISCUSSION TOPICS:
1. How to increase our club's visibility. We brainstormed a number of ideas, including:
 - When we march in the Fourth of July Parade, we should carry large photos of the gardens and planters around town that we create and maintain, to increase residents' awareness of how much we do. (Many people think the Town maintains these flowers.) Possibly we could make these posters at the first meeting of our 2026 season, the April meeting.
 - We need articles about the projects we are working on in the *Berkshire Eagle* and in *iBerkshires*. For example: Glen Andrews, metal shop teacher at McCann Technical School, is working with his students to restore and repair the flower boxes we took down from the old Walley Bridge, so that they can be repurposed for the newly-completed bridge. Also, our presence at the Penny Social is worthy of highlighting. Delia agreed to write press releases. We should use Destination Williamstown as much as possible—tell them about all of our events which are open to the public. Possibly in the spring we could advertise that the Williamstown Garden Club is gearing up for the summer and looking for people to help maintain flower boxes. If you or your family would like to volunteer, contact us. (We would need a club mentor to supervise.)
 - We agreed that we should use our twice-per-season ability to table at the Williamstown Farmer's Market for free. Perhaps we could host a table where kids could plant things and bring them home, or an art table with supplies and a flower arrangement for them to draw a picture of.
 - We all like the idea of metal plaques at the key locations where we maintain plantings or gardens—such as Town Hall, Field Park, the Post Office, and the Sally Tenney Osborne Garden. The plaques should be consistent. Have some been taken? Do we need to order more to be ready for 2026? We definitely need a plaque on the new Walley Bridge. (This might say, "In cooperation with the Williamstown Community Chest and McCann Technical School".)
 - Maria has a map of the locations of Williamstown Garden Club plantings; should we distribute or post that? Should we explain that we are planning for the bicentennial, and there will be special flower arrangements at historic locations in Williamstown?
 2. How to make membership more rewarding. We feel new members need more support.
 - We discussed the idea of having mentors for new members, who would connect them to projects

that suit their interests and abilities, sit with them at meetings, introduce them to other members, and just be welcoming in any way they could. We want to call these mentors “buddies”; we would like to explain this rule at one of our general meetings and ask people to sign up if they are willing to be a “buddy” to a new member.

- We talked about ways to increase membership. Could there be a greens workshop for families? Could some of our programs be held on weekends or evenings at the library, making it easier for working people to attend?
3. How to balance the work required to maintain our gardens with the energies of our membership.
 - We all need to work hard to attract new members. We need to hire help for the tasks we can't handle. We need to eliminate some of our less important or less visible or planters. Delia said we need about 20 people in order to care for planters. We agreed to get rid of some decayed whiskey barrels at some locations, and the planters at the old firehouse.
 4. Plant sale 2026 plans.
 - We will collect used pots (and possibly some with plants still living in them) from departing students on the Williams College campus on May 14, 15, and 16: Thursday through Saturday, from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Pat has agreed to head this effort. She was worried about cleaning and storage. Maria offered plastic milk crates for carrying the pots and said they could be stored in her barn. Pat agreed to hose down the pots and deliver them to Maria. We would like some additional volunteers to help with this project.
 - We need leadership for the 2026 plant sale. Kathy suggested a pair of leaders. We need to order the cactus and bamboo plants. We need to plan the propagation and planting workshops.
 - Kathy submitted to all of us a detailed report on this year's plant sale, and there was also a post-mortem discussion of the sale after the September 9th general membership meeting at the Clark's Lunder Center. Some of those ideas were mentioned again today.
 5. How should we acknowledge the 250th?
 - We discussed specific flowers we plan to use to create red, white and blue plantings both in containers and in our garden spots around town.
 6. Program thoughts for 2026. There were several suggestions:
 - tour of the Hunter estate at the top of Bulkley Street at Northwest Hill Road.
 - Amy Musante, who has a farm in Dalton and is a beekeeper, might be willing to host us.
 - Chris Ferraro has offered to take us on a tour of the Berkshire Botanical Gardens.
 - Mt. Williams Greenhouses does a wreath-making program.
 - Thurber O'Rourke garden on Oblong Road
 - Will and Katie Schmidt's garden in Pownal
 - Hugh Glover's garden.
 7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:
 - Walley Bridge Project: Kathy said the state doesn't need to approve what we plan to do on the bridge; however, we can't have metal on metal, because it causes corrosion. She applied for a

\$3,000 Hank Flynt grant, given by the Community Chest, for this project, and received a letter dated November 7 saying we had received \$1,000. We are reconfiguring the old stainless-steel boxes, which are all eight feet long, rather than making new ones. We will have five four-foot sections on each side of the bridge—20 feet of flowers on either side. The boxes are being rebuilt at McCann Technical School by the metal fabrication department students. We talked about getting the parents of the students to give us permission to take some photos of this work, which we could use to publicize the project.

E. NEXT MEETING DATE: Tuesday, January 20 at 1:00 pm.

F. ADJOURNMENT: Pat moved to adjourn, Delia seconded. Karen adjourned the meeting at 3:07 p.m.

Submitted by:

Pat Wilk,
Recording Secretary

Approved March 24, 2026