

WILLIAMSTOWN GARDEN CLUB
GENERAL MEETING
April 14, 2026
12:00 P.M. St. John's Church, lower level

- A. CALL MEETING TO ORDER: President Karen Parker called the meeting to order at 12:30 pm., after we had all enjoyed a lovely buffet lunch, eaten at tables decorated with fresh daffodils, and claimed our copy of the new 2026 yearbook, featuring a wraparound photo of the colorful flower garden at Field Park in full bloom. Many members congratulated Kathy McKnight on this lovely publication, filled with essential club information, and photographs of our activities throughout the year. Karen began by thanking the hospitality committee—Louise Rutland and Sherry Rowsey—and other members who contributed—for the spread.
- B. WELCOME: Karen welcomed everyone to the meeting, especially our 11 new members, who all had green bows attached to their names tags so that we could recognize them and make them feel welcome, and one guest.
- C. PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Karen focused on our identity as a club and our larger purpose as we head into another year. Page one of our yearbook, she said, describes us well: "The Williamstown Garden Club strives to enhance the natural beauty of our garden and our community's surroundings through the horticultural education of our members—while sharing our knowledge and friendship." We are first and foremost a service club, she reminded us. We care about the environment that we try to maintain. But what's not mentioned in those lines is the laughter and support that we provide one another. She welcomed the new members and voiced the hope that friendship will be at the top of their experience in our club.
- D. NEW MEMBER WELCOME: Membership co-chairs Kathy McKnight and Julie Reilly introduced us to the new members present at today's luncheon. They are: Helene Armet, Barbara Carr, Janice Goodman, Jesse Guiden, Betsy Kyle, Mary Pfister, Tamanike Steward, Sue Strizzi, Cindy Vadnais, Kathy Milne, and Trish Wilson. They also introduced one guest at this meeting—Sue Strizzi—who decided to become a member. Karen directed the new members to the range of sign-up sheets for club activities, and urged them to volunteer for one of our projects. She asked some of the committee chairs to describe their work and when it happens.
- E. PROGRAMS: Our past president Maria Siskind, who now heads the programs committee, walked us through this year's schedule of activities, including our May 12 speaker, Jen Munoz, who will give a talk on "Growing Healthy Gardens" and two exciting summer field trips: a bus trip to Stanley Park in Westfield on June 9th, and a car pool trip to Berkshire Botanical Gardens in Stockbridge on July 15.
- F. CONTAINER GARDEN UPDATE: Delia Marshall and Kathy reported on the current plans for flower boxes at the newly completed Walley Bridge, which will feature our newly-reconstructed and freshly painted flower boxes, and red white and blue flowers.
- G. NEW BOARD MEMBERS: Karen announced that at the March 24th Executive Board meeting, we unanimously voted to appoint Mattie Kelley and Sherry Rowley co-vice presidents, and Jennifer Howlett treasurer. Karen thanked them for serving, and all applauded them.
- H. HORT SHORT: Our short horticulture lesson today, presented by Master Gardener Diane VanKempen, was a demonstration of how to propagate different types of plants. She gave specific directions for several plants, and shared a few handy tricks.
- I. NEXT MEETING: May 12 at 1:00 p.m. at the Milne Library. Jen Munoz, a leader in Berkshire County community

gardening, will speak about “Growing Healthy Gardens”.

J. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

Submitted by
Pat Wilk
Recording Secretary