

WILLIAMSTOWN GARDEN CLUB BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

June 26, 2026

Williamstown Police Station training room, 1:00 p.m.

- A. CALL MEETING TO ORDER: President Karen Parker called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m.
- B. CONFIRM QUORUM: Present were Jennifer Howlett, Betty Iannitelli, Delia Marshall, Susan Montiel, Kathy McKnight, Karen Parker, Maria Siskind, Joan Wright, Pat Wilk. Absent: Sherry Rowsey.
- C. REPORTS:
 - 1. Finance Committee Report on our budget for the coming fiscal year. Susan handed each of us a copy of the current budget and a sheet detailing the WGC expense categories and explaining what each entails. She reviewed the finances of our past fiscal year (July 1-June 30). She also thanked Delia, who gives precise budget information for the contain plants, is always the first person to respond with a budget request and actively questions some charges. Susan urged all of us to be more proactive with budget information. She shared the expense reimbursement form with us and encouraged us to use it. She will post it on the website. Alternatively, you can take a picture of your receipt for a club expense on your phone, and send that to Jennifer.
 - 2. We reviewed some specifics. Jesse Guiden received \$840 for paint and supplies used on the new Walley Bridge flower boxes (Joan agreed to write a letter of appreciation to him for all of his work for the club.) We also agreed that we should send a note of thanks, and an acknowledgement of a tax-deductible donation, to Elaine Neely, who funded much of Jesse's time with us. We paid Brianna, a Milne Library staff member, \$1,500 for tech support, and praised her work on our new club website. We have estimated an income of \$3,000 of our fall plant sale this year. We have received a \$5,000 donation from the Shaver Foundation. Joan will write them a thank you note. We awarded \$500 scholarships to two Mount Greylock High School graduates: Emily Jones, who is going to Emory and majoring in environmental science, and Jesse Thompson, who is going to University of Vermont and majoring in Conservation.
 - 3. Coming budget expenses. Although Diane Van Kempen requested that we allocate money to plant a large shrub at either end of Willowy Bridge, we declined that request, because we are not sure who owns that land and there are too many other projects right now. We agreed to return to this idea in the future. Delia reports that the six wooden barrels at Margaret Lindley Park and the two at the Historical Society are decaying. We agreed to order six new barrels from Home Depot, at \$80 each, to replace both barrels at the Historical Society and four of the six at Margaret Lindley.
 - 4. Should we make a substantial gift to the town? We revisited the idea of making a substantial contribution to the town, using the funds in our Berkshire Taconic account. We discussed a range of possible ways we could make an impact. Susan suggested that we form a committee to begin planning this project, evaluating ideas, and getting feedback from residents and town officials; the committee should report back to the board, so that we can begin to make some decisions regarding this goal.

5. Vote to approve. Karen voted to approve the fiscal year 2027 budget, Joan seconded, and everyone voted in favor. We applauded Jennifer and Susan for their efforts to create this budget and clearly communicate it to us.

D. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: UPDATES ON PROJECTS

1. We summarized our plans for marching in the July 4th parade, and thanked Joan for painting the large flowers that five of us will be carrying. We agreed to also carry some of our “Williamstown Garden Club at Work” signs, and to wear our club tee shirts and wear hats with flowers in them.
2. We discussed our plantings. We evaluated plusses and minuses at Walley Bridge, the Post Office, Sally Tenney, Field Park, and with our containers. We currently have enough volunteers, but there are problems with the watering system at Field Park not working.
3. We updated information on plans for the fall plant sale. Kathy told us that the plant sale is a week later (Sept. 11, not Sept. 4), because classes begin on the 10th, and there will be more students on campus. We will go back to Paresky steps. The plant potting party Tuesday August 25. Diane is doing the houseplants and succulents, and Fern is in charge of the bamboo plants.
4. New member update. The gathering for new members went well. we have 12 new club members, and all are active. We discussed the important contributions of several of our new members.

E. NEW BUSINESS: none

F. NEXT MEETING DATE: Tuesday, August 18 at 3:00 p.m., Milne Library Board Room

G. ADJOURN: Karen adjourned the meeting at 2:57 p.m.

Minutes approved on August 18, 2026