

WILLIAMSTOWN GARDEN CLUB
April 16, 2019 General Meeting
1:00 P.M. – Lunder Center at Stone Hill, Clark Art Museum

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER: President Karen Pellegrini called the meeting to order at 1:08 pm. The minutes from the November and December 2018 meetings have been posted on the website and sent by email to all members. Approximately 34 members were in attendance.
2. WELCOME: Karen welcomed everyone to a new Garden Club season.
3. PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Karen gave a brief overview of the Garden Club progress over the last year and highlighted the new sign-up sheet which was available at today's meeting. If you have not yet turned in your sheet, please mail it to our P.O. Box 85. Help is needed and there is something for everyone; thanks to all members for making the Club activities a success. The annual plant and bake sale fundraiser is coming soon on Saturday, May 25. Please plan for this and get your perennials potted soon. We also will feature herbs and succulents this year so consider purchasing some for our sale if you do not have perennials to share. Baked goods are also needed; small, individually packaged, "special" and from scratch items should be featured. Helpers are needed! Please join.
4. COMMUNICATIONS: Sue Pike and Kathy McKnight presented their annual orientation to the Club Member Booklet. The booklet highlights all the information for club members and our annual activities planned as of the date of publication; website information is updated as there are changes so it provides the most current information. The sign-in to the website is wgc and the password is roses.
5. CORRESPONDING SECRETARY'S REPORT: tabled until the next meeting on May 14, 2019.
6. NEW BUSINESS: The formal meeting was closed at 1:27 pm and Karen introduced our speaker, Suzanne Mahler. Suzanne presented *Get Ready for Spring*, which encouraged all the members to get out into our gardens. Suzanne shared her favorite tools and steps for summer readiness. Some of the highlights: start early making your list of garden plans and needs. Use quality tools (her "weapons"); Suzanne's favorites including a spear-head spade, Felco pruners, a silky saw, and an electric saw for the ornamental grasses. Prune now, except for the spring bloomers. When pruning, look for crossed branches; cracks, tears and wounds to the bark; suckers; try to prune to promote branches facing outward; and prune at an angle to promote moisture runoff. For hydrangeas, Suzanne likes Annabel hydrangea as it is a local plant, which she cuts it to 4 inches each year. Ornamental grasses should be divided now; May 1 is the deadline. Peonies should be dug in the fall. Iris need to be divided and dead wood cut off. Try to stagger your plantings so that you have progression in your blooms. Consider something new; for example, Pickity Place in Mason NH is an interesting herb garden (see pickityplace.com) or consider a vegetable garden. Massachusetts has some wonderful public gardens such as Heritage Museum and Garden, Elm Bank, Tower Hill (near Worcester). Suzanne showed beautiful photographs and gave a handout with garden timeline. Suzanne's talk was enjoyed by all,
7. COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS: were held for refreshments at the Store at Five Corners.
8. NEXT MEETING DATE: Tuesday, May 14, 1 pm, at the Harper Center when Bette Sanders will assemble several interesting containers and speak to the group about *Techniques for Exciting and Successful Pots from the Bottom Up*.
9. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting ended at 2:52 pm and the members adjourned to the Store at Five Corners where refreshments were enjoyed.

Submitted by Susan Montiel
Recording Secretary