

**WILLIAMSTOWN GARDEN CLUB**  
**October 8, 2019 Annual Meeting**  
**12 noon – St. John’s Church lower level**

1. **CALL MEETING TO ORDER:** President Karen Pellegrini called the meeting to order at 1:10 pm following a potluck lunch. The minutes from last year’s annual meeting have been posted on the website and sent by email to all members.
2. **WELCOME:** Karen welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked the membership for the wonderful food and drink, and especially Hospitality committee leader Betty Iannitelli. In attendance today was new member Linda Dragit who will be joining the club, and 26 members.
3. **PRESIDENT’S REPORT:** Karen presented a thorough report on achievements during fiscal year 2018 – 19 and plans for the upcoming year with additional information presented via a power point presentation. She highlighted four (4) general topics:
  - Accomplishments and proposed activities for next year
  - Future needs of the Club
  - Financial report
  - Proposed slate officers
4. **ACCOMPLISHMENTS:** Karen highlighted the following:
  - a. **Fiscal:** Club financial records have been computerized and accounting firm has been retained. The plant sale revenue was increased in both the fall and spring sales. The scholarship program has been reactivated with two awards to graduating seniors from Mt. Greylock as well as a financial contribution to the GCFMA scholarship fund, and grant funds from the GCFMA were used to renovate the Sally Tenney Osborne gardens. Special thanks were given to Kathie Jones for her help with the grant application.
  - b. **Community Involvement:** varied activities have occurred throughout the year all with the goal of increasing the membership.
  - c. **Club:** the Board met more frequently and have developed written job descriptions for their positions; in addition, members received more frequent communications.
5. **FUTURE CLUB NEEDS:** Karen identified goals for longevity of the Club: increasing membership participation, improving the efficiency and lightening the load on club activities, and increasing membership. She also noted that a club historian is needed to bring the record of the Club history current. Karen also shared the new Club recruitment flyer featuring “doggie gardeners”; thanks were given to Sue Pike for her help with this.
6. **TREASURER’S REPORT:** Treasurer Marilyn Faulkner presented a summary of the Club’s financial situation and Club account balances.
  - a. **Assets:** It was noted that long-term savings held at the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation were increased by moving funds from the Mountain One savings account to the WGC Fund at BTCF; the BTCF fund had a return on investment last year of 7.5%.
  - b. **FY 2018 – 19 report:** Club’s income was greater than the budgeted amount and yielded a net positive income of approximately \$2,500 over the year. Expenses were noted by the membership to be “spot on” with what was budgeted. It was suggested that the Club provide a report to the Town on the amounts spent by the Club on civic beautification projects.
  - c. **FY 2019 – 20 proposed budget** was shared and reviewed by the membership. It mostly mirrors the 2018 – 19 income and expenses with additional amounts budgeted for scholarship funds so that the contribution to the scholarship fund at the GCFMA is now \$500 and to replace some of the containers for annuals.

Motion was made and seconded to approve the proposed budget, approved by the membership.

7. PROGRAM COMMITTEE: Linda Conway presented the report of the Program Committee, highlighting all the activities over the past year. Thanks were given to the planning committee members (Carol Oshinsky, Maria Siskind, Karen Pellegrini with Linda as chair) for their help in planning the programming. The committee will soon begin meeting to plan the programs to begin in April, 2020. The membership is invited to contact any committee member with suggestions or thoughts about speakers and possible programs.
8. CIVIC BEAUTIFICATION (Sue Metzner): Sue represented both Elaine Neely and herself in presenting the annual report on perennials and annuals.
  - a. Perennials: the "Thursday" group has been active in maintaining the renovated gardens at Field Park for 8 – 9 years. The participation in the group has increased slightly this year but additional volunteers are needed. This year they began maintaining the STO garden on Mondays as well. The membership discussed options and concerns regarding the recently discovered Asian Jumping worms found at Field Park; Carol Oshinsky is actively researching options, the best of which seems to be the use of "biochar". The group will decide on further action to be taken.
  - b. Annuals: Sue highlighted the plantings this year, which were very well received. The two types of geraniums used were new to the Club this year worked quite well. The ambiguity about planters on Spring Street continues with uncertainty about the number of planters for which the Club will be responsible next year. Some planters are worn and are scheduled for replacement this year. Additional helpers are requested, either as weekly volunteers or even as vacation fill-ins for the bridge boxes; currently these are maintained on Monday mornings. Plans for next year were discussed; since the plantings this year were so well received and relatively low maintenance, the current plan is to mimic those next year. The membership also discussed the timing of the removal of the plant materials; Maria Siskind will notify the Club when it is time to remove the plants. At that time, members who help with removal may keep geraniums if desired. Sue will identify the planters to be replaced; these will not be kept over the winter.
9. COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS: The membership gave both Karen and Bob a round of applause for their energy and commitment to the Club.
10. NEXT MEETING DATE: Tuesday, November 12, 2019, at the Milne Library; speaker will be featuring Margaret Roach on The 365-Day Garden.
11. ADJOURNMENT: The formal meeting was adjourned at 2:05pm.

Submitted by  
Susan Montiel  
Recording Secretary