

Academy Garden Club
Minutes
May 12, 2026

23 members attended

In Linda Goffs' absence Karen Spies ran the meeting. We were greeted by a gigantic new digital screen.

Karen opened the meeting promptly at 6:05 p.m. stating that we have a lot to discuss. Karen asked for the approval of the minutes as published in The Thymes. The minutes were moved by MaryEllen seconded by Dianne Romeo, and approved unanimously.

Karen then asked if any new members were in the audience and if they would like to introduce themselves. Four women stood and announced their names: Suzanne Peyton, Brenda Durrin, MaryEllen O'Brien and Leslie Snyder, MaryEllen's friend who would like to join. Karen Carhart is also a new member but she is traveling in Chile. MaryEllen demonstrated a wonderful flower arranging presentation at our April meeting.

AGC OOPERATIONS:

Theresa Fasano, Treasurer, stood to explain that at the June meeting, we will be voting on the 2026/2027 budget. She passed out copies of a draft budget for all to look at and ask questions or make comments. There is one increase for flower purchases due to the increase costs of plans from \$500 to \$750.

Karen Spies went on to explain that the executive committee had met last month and had a new idea to bring forward. It will require a Bylaw change to also be voted at the June meeting. The change will allow for the formation of a new committee titled "Membership". The Membership committee would be responsible for the care and cultivation of new members. A sheet was handed out with the proposed bylaw change to add a new Membership Committee that would better focus on our members and integration of new members. The bylaw change will be as follow and will be voted on in June.

Article VII — STANDING COMMITTEES

SECTION 1 There shall be the following Standing Committees: Nominating, Program, Communications, MEMBERSHIP, Horticulture, Civic Projects, Finance and Fundraising, Scholarship and Historian.

In June the new slate of officers will be also be presented for the clubs to vote on.

CIVIC PROJECTS COMMITTEE:

Kathy Devyler spoke on our summer chores around town and brought a calendar for members to sign up for weeding at the monument and weeding and watering at the pollinator garden at Lilac Park. The papers will be available in June for all to sign up. Kathy does do a reminder call to all.

There are enough people signed up for the first planting meeting. The flowers are coming on June 3, but we need sign ups for weekly maintenance weeding and watering for the season. When working bring a bucket for weeds, clippers for deadheading and, for the pollinators garden, also bring a watering can. A water faucet is available at the Academy building.

Kathy reminded us to be very careful of the traffic at the monument. Better not to plan to be there on Tanglewood weekends when the intersection is congested with cars and too dangerous.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND FIELD TRIPS:

Theresa also talked about trying to set up visits to members' gardens during the summer. It is intended to be a very informal gathering to look at the different ideas and designs as a way for members to inspire each other. Attendee can bring their own drinks and hosts should not weed or go to great effort. Theresa offered to be the first garden on May 29 at 1 p.m.. Please let her know if you are interested.

Dianne Romeo mentioned that the next trip is to Cricket Hill on May 27th . There will be several different trips during the summer months. Look for more information in June.

A field trip to Ron Kajowski's garden in Richmond was mentioned Karen said that due to weather the dates keep changing. Dianne is arranging it, drivers are needed. Right now it is planned for the last Monday, June 29th with Tuesday, June 30 as rain date.

BOOK CLUB:

Anne Gannon will be discussing 3 books at the next 4 meetings this summer. Meetings are the first Thursday of the month from June 4th at the Lenox Library 3:30 -5:30 p.m.. Suzanne asked how we find the information about the books— it was suggested to look on the website or check with Anne. June 4 is the "Prodigal Summer" by Barbara Kingsolver; July is "MARMEE" by Sarah Miller; and August is "The Wharton Plot" by Mariah Fredericks. You may attend any session and read that book or if you wish, all three as some people have more time or read faster than others; the Club is flexible.

The Business meeting concluded at 6:30 p.m.

Guest speaker, Thaddeus Kubis was introduced. He is a photographer and photographic educator. A wonderful and detailed presentation was given demonstrating how to take beautiful pictures with your mobile phone, whether Apple or Android. During his hour long program he gave numerous tips along with actually showing how they can be done. He is available to help and gave us his card, Thaddeus B Kubis Photographer and Photographic Educator, 99 Main St, PO Box 342 Sheffield. MA 01257 phone 917 597 1891, thad@tbkphoto.com

NEXT MEETING:

The presentation adjourned at 7:35 p.m. The next meeting will be the annual potluck at the Berkshire Botanical Garden Kitchen June 9 at 6 p.m. Last name A-L bring a dessert or drinks and M-Z bring an appetizer or main dish. All attending bring your own plate, cup and utensils.

In the absence of the Secretary, Minutes were taken by Tjasa Sprague and Dianne Romeo Finalized and respectfully submitted by Sarah Hatch, Secretary