

Academy Garden Club Thymes

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE MEMBERS OF THE ACADEMY GARDEN CLUB OF LENOX

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JANUARY 2026

Minutes

Meeting December 9, 2025

The meeting was held at Ventfort Hall with twenty-four attendees. A pot-luck dinner followed the meeting.

Karen Spies, vice president, opened the meeting at 6:09 pm as our president was away. She welcomed all and thanked Wendy Healy, executive director of Ventfort Hall, for hosting us in this beautiful Gilded Age home that once belonged to Sarah Morgan.

Wendy warmly greeted the members and was pleased that many had come last year and had even visited again. Sarah Morgan received \$3 million in 1890 from her father's estate and with that she and George Morgan built the house. Since that time, it has had many iterations before restorations began.

Most recently the Ventfort Hall Associates have been able to purchase the cottage where the gardener, John Huss, lived. Plans are to establish the gardens, orchards, and walking paths. It was noted that there were six green houses on the property. Other plans include repair of the east end masonry and restoration of the balcony and plaster. In thanking Wendy, the club presented her with a check for \$200.

A motion was then made and unanimously voted to approve the November 2025 minutes as published in The Thymes.

The Club's website funding was approved in an email vote. Thirty-two members responded, all voted yes. The site continues to function.

Karen thanked the volunteers who decorated a tree for the Festival of Trees at Hancock Shaker Village in cooperation with the Berkshire Museum. Jill Dore, Cindy Packard, and Dianne Romeo led the effort. Many volunteers participated in making the decorations as well as doing the actual decorating.

Karen pointed out that the Post Office window is ready for winter. Liz Celli, Jill Dore and Karen Spies built a display based upon Robert Frost's poem — "Stopping by the Wood on a Snowing Evening."

Special thanks were passed to Jill Dore for her mother's beautifully made botanical book-marks which were given to each member. Jill's mother is an artist and lives on the island of Malta.

Before closing at 6:29 pm Karen reminded everyone that the next meeting is February 10th, 2026.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Hatch, Secretary