



We held the first-ever meeting of the Goshen Garden Club on Friday, August 7, 2026, at the Town of Goshen Community Center. Victoria Dastidar called us to order at 12:00 PM, and we wrapped up at 1:00 PM.

Who was there: Victoria Dastidar, Saty Dastidar, Scarlett Skeens, Sarah Skeens, and Ed Franklin, representing Mary Beth Franklin.

Since this was our first gathering, we kept things informal — a meet-and-greet to introduce ourselves and talk through ideas for the club for this year and beyond. No formal votes were taken.

What we talked about

Victoria opened by describing what she hopes the club will be: not strictly a gardening club, but a group involved in the life of the community — fun and social activities, beautification projects, and neighbors getting to know one another. Gardening is the starting point, not the boundary.

She also shared some encouraging news. Mayor Tom McCraw has assured her that once the new gazebo is finished, the club will be able to use it for events and activities.

The club's focus for the rest of the year is simple: **grow membership** and **raise funds**.

On activities, workshops were the clear favorite — making seed bombs, wreaths, and other handmade products. Victoria brought along samples of seed bombs, paper wreaths, and cards to show what the club could sell, and sent everyone home with a bag of seed bombs.

Sarah suggested partnering with local churches and community centers. Ed offered to help with community beautification projects. We also agreed that we'll need volunteers to help make products, run workshops, and staff our events.

Coming up

We agreed to hold a seed bomb making workshop ahead of the Craigsville festival. Date to be announced — we'll share it as soon as it's set, and all hands are welcome.

Two events are already on the calendar, and the first is only five weeks away:

- [Craigsville Va Fall Festival](#) — Saturday, September 12, 8:00 AM–2:00 PM
- [Mountain Day Festival, Buena Vista VA](#) — Sunday, October 11, 10:00 AM–4:00 PM

If you can help at either one, please let us know.

Still to come

We haven't finalized the club charter or membership positions yet; those are on the list for our next meeting. Date to be announced — we'll try for an evening or weekend so more folks can join us.

It was a wonderful start, and we're grateful to everyone who came. Ideas, questions, and offers to help are all welcome. Follow along on Facebook at Goshen Garden Club of VA and on our website, goshengardenclub.com, and please spread the word.

Goshen Garden Club
(540) 497-9451

Minutes recorded by Saty Dastidar.