

GARDNER LAKE AUTHORITY

270 Hartford Road

Salem, CT 06240

Meeting Minutes of October 12, 2017

Montville Public Safety Building

CANCELLED

Attendees

Bozrah: Henry Granger, Scott Soderberg

Montville: Kate Johnson

Salem: Bob Neddo

Excused: Mike Magliano, Bill Wrobel, Jim McArdle and Bruce Henry

Guests: Dr. Robert Kortmann, John Hummel and Sue Coffee

Henry Granger, Chair, noted that there was no quorum. The business portion of the meeting was tabled until November.

Ecosystem Consulting Service, Inc. Presentation

Dr. Robert Kortmann, Ecosystem Consulting Service, Inc., presented the 2017 Aquatic Macrophyte Survey & Limnological Monitoring Results. Dr. Kortmann began by explaining that we are coming out of a two year drought, with variable winter conditions last year. December was fairly typical, January – February saw thawing and March was colder than January and February. The lack of ice cover can throw the lake's normal cycle off, providing a longer growing season for cyanobacteria.

Dr. Kortmann reviewed prior data that he has collected at Gardner Lake over the years, looking for nuisance weed conditions. Although small patches of fanwort were found, there was less presence than a decade ago. Invasive milfoil is also present, but the annual drawdowns continue to help manage both of the invasive aquatic plants that are present.

There was cause for concern about data collected by the Client Monitoring Program, headed by GLA volunteer Scott Soderberg, showing a loss of dissolved oxygen within the deep hole that leveled off at 6 meters. If the decrease in dissolved oxygen rose one more meter, there was a threat of loss of oxygen spreading across the expanse of the lake's bottom. Dr. Kortmann discussed chemical changes, both positive and negative, that can take place, but for the remainder of the year the lake will remain stable.

Some of the conditions that existed, that *may* have been contributors to the decrease in clarity and dissolved oxygen, included - but were not limited to or positively identified - abnormally bad phosphorous levels, ammonia issues stemming from the lake's bottom, high nitrates coming in through runoff, gypsy moth defoliation, other nonpoint sources from the watershed including pet and wildlife manure runoff and mild winter conditions.

In summary, Dr. Kortmann reports that Gardner Lake remains a healthy lake and has managed to overcome issues facing many CT lakes. Combining his annual monitoring and GLA's volunteer Client Cooperative Monitoring test results, the lake's chemistry and well-being are being carefully recorded. It is hoped that the State of Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CT DEEP) will provide staff to check boats coming into the state's boat launches for invasive plant fragments traveling from waterbody to waterbody.

Next Meeting Date

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, November 9, 2017 at the Salem Town Hall at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Kate Johnson,
Secretary