

GARDNER LAKE AUTHORITY

270 Hartford Road
Salem, CT 06240

Meeting Minutes of May 11, 2023
Salem Town Hall

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Attendees

Bozrah: Henry Granger, Scott Soderberg
Montville: Bill Wrobel, Kate Johnson, Mike Magliano
Salem: Chris Rios

Absent: Tony Lasaracina, Jim Miller
Guests: State Representative Holly Cheeseman, DEEP Encon Captain Vinny Mazzotta, Barbara Magliano, Jane Coffey and Val Hornat.

First Selectman Ed Chmielewski spoke with GLA members at the end of the meeting.

A quorum was noted.

DEEP Environmental Control (Encon) Boating Captain Vinny Mazzotta

Captain Mazzotta reported that he and Sgt. Karen Riley will lead Gardner Lake's patrol team again this year, and that DEEP's boat is being readied for the upcoming season. The 90-day alcohol ban at the park will be in effect again this season. He explained that patrol officers will be signing up on a volunteer basis (with pay) to patrol the state's waterbodies in addition to their full work week. Personal firearms are not allowed to be carried onto state property or forests, with the exception of carrying firearms for the purpose of hunting (a hunting license is required). A lake in eastern CT has been successful in approving designated hours for jet ski usage. Three new officers will be assigned to eastern CT (east of the CT River), with an additional four officers now in training to be added by the end of July. Fishing tournaments continue to be an issue at Gardner Lake and around the state. GLA will consider inviting Bill Foreman, DEEP Fisheries, to a future meeting.

Minutes

The minutes of the April 13, 2023 meeting were presented for approval. Chris Rios made a motion to approve the minutes as presented; seconded by Mike Magliano. The motion passed unanimously.

Attachments

- Treasurer's Report from 3/18/2023 – 4/17/2023
- Client Monitoring Field Data Sheet, dated 4/14/23

Correspondence & Communication

- **CT State Statute Sec. 7-151c:** Henry shared § information regarding lake authority retention fees for boating law fines. The statute reads: *The Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection shall establish a schedule of retention fees for lake authorities that provides for the amount of any fine issued by such authority, to any person who violates the boating laws of the state upon such lake, that such authority may retain.* GLA will learn more about this.
- **U.S. Department of Commerce:** The U.S. Census has reached out to the Gardner Lake Authority for information. Henry will respond.
- **ECCD Newsletter:** The winter newsletter of the Eastern CT Conservation District was received.
- **Salem's Annual Payments:** First Selectman Ed Chmielewski provided a list of Salem's payment amounts from FY 2020-2021 through FY 2023-2024. GLA will need to review these numbers in relation to the percentage amounts billed to, and previously paid by, Bozrah and Montville; and how these numbers will affect services provided to Gardner Lake.
- **DEEP Encon:** Henry reported on emails and phone calls to DEEP Encon to secure this year's lake patrol.

Treasurer's Reports

Scott Soderberg presented the May Treasurer's Report (March 18, 2023 to April 17, 2023) for approval. Kate Johnson made a motion to approve the report as presented; seconded by Mike Magliano. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Business

- **Law Enforcement Patrol:** Presented earlier by Captain Mazzotta, DEEP Patrol.
- **Water Quality Sampling:** Scott reported that the miniDot data logger has been installed in the deep hole for this season in order to monitor and record real-time dissolved oxygen levels. Filamentous algae (green algae) has been spotted this spring. Scott noted that it is a naturally occurring condition, especially during cooler water temperatures, and that it will normally dissipate once the water warms. Mike reported that the local health district is now asking campgrounds to complete e-forms and to mail hard copies once the forms are completed online.
- **Dam/Drawdown Updates:** GLA will request the specifications of the dam gate that was installed in 2017. Concern has been raised that perhaps the newer gate valve is smaller and allows for less flow than the previous dam gate. At the time of the meeting, the lake has been going down an inch a day from over the two spillways, as the gate is now closed. Downstream is handling the overflow in good order. Scott spoke about the benefits of V-shaped weir boards, and Chris spoke about the possibility of valve adjustments.

Old Business – None.

New Business

A press release will be sent out to notify the public that DEEP Encon will be patrolling Gardner Lake this season.

Other Business – None.

Public Comment

Val Hornat thanked the GLA members for their volunteer services. She also raised concern about the Asian clam population and brought empty shells for identification. When Asian clams were first found in Gardner Lake (around 2021) GLA spoke with several DEEP staffers. At that time there was not a lot of concern about the clams but DEEP also noted that they had little data on them.

Salem First Selectman Ed Chmielewski joined the meeting to confirm this year's payment, and also discussed Salem's financial burden for the resident troopers that patrol the park and boat launch. GLA noted that its obligation is to the waterbody, including safety, invasive weed management and chemistry.

Next Meeting Date

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, June 8, 2023 at Maples Farm, Bozrah, beginning at 7:00 pm.

Adjournment

Chris Rios made a motion to adjourn at 9:29 p.m.; seconded by Scott Soderberg. The motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,



Kate Johnson,
Secretary