

## GARDNER LAKE AUTHORITY

270 Hartford Road  
Salem, CT 06240

Meeting Minutes of September 14, 2023  
Bozrah Senior Center

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m.

### Attendees

Bozrah: Henry Granger, Scott Soderberg  
Montville: Kate Johnson, Mike Magliano  
Salem: Chris Rios, Tony Lasaracina

Excused: Jim Miller, Bill Wrobel

Guests: Montville Police Lt. David Radford II, Michael Socha, Sue Coffee, Barbara Magliano, Lynda Feder-Craney, Tom Craney, Val Hormat and John Hummel.

A quorum was noted.

### Attachments

- Treasurer's Report from 7/18/2023 – 8/17/2023
- Client Monitoring Field Data Sheet dated 8/25/2023

### Administration, Correspondence & Communication

- **Montville Payment:** Received in the amount of \$8,535.00, as requested.
- **Bozrah Payment:** Received in the amount of \$2,845.00, as requested.
- **Invoice from UConn CESE:** Invoice #13533588, in the amount of \$480.53 for water sampling lab analysis. Kate Johnson made a motion to approve payment; seconded by Tony Lasaracina. The motion passed unanimously.
- **Client Monitoring Field Data Sheet:** Dated August 25, 2023.
- **List of Proposed Gardner Lake Stakeholders:** As prepared and presented by GLA member Jim Miller and Salem First Selectman Ed Chmielewski including: CT State Police, DEEP Enforcement, Montville Mayor & Chief of Police, Salem First Selectman, Bozrah First Selectman, CT State Parks, Gardner Lake Volunteer Fire Co. & Ambulance, CT State Senators (tri-town), CT State Representatives (tri-town) and the Gardner Lake Authority [proposed members to-date].
- **Email from Jane Coffey:** Dated 8/11/23, thanking GLA for hosting a forum-style meeting in August for area residents to share their concerns regarding activities on Gardner Lake with local and state authorities.
- **Lake Water Levels:** Submitted through 9/14/23.
- **Drawdown Request:** Henry submitted the 2023-2024 drawdown request on 8/21/23, receiving confirmation of receipt from DEEP the following day.
- **Email from Linda Brunza, DEEP, Responding to Drawdown Request:** Dated 8/23/23, noting that there have been two state-listed plant species associated with Gardner Lake: State Endangered *Sagittaria teres* and State Threatened *Potamogeton vaseyi*. The State does not know what effects the drawdown might have on these species. GLA needs to request a Natural Diversity Database (NDDB) review. GLA's request for additional information on these two species has been redirected twice to other staff.
- **Email Request to Linda Brunza for a 2022-2023 Dam Report:** GLA needs to submit a request to John Guglielmoni, DEEP.
- **NDDB User Account Setup:** Henry was able to establish an ezFile account to electronically resubmit the 2023-2024 drawdown request.
- **Email from Robin Blum, DEEP, Supervising Wildlife Biologist:** Dated 8/28/23, noting that an NDDB review is required prior to our drawdown approval to determine what role the Gardner Lake drawdown might have on the two state-listed plants.

- **Email from Linda Brunza:** Dated 9/12/23, stating that approval letters for statewide drawdowns will be emailed by the end of September or beginning of October.
- **GZA Confirmation for October Meeting:** Scott has received confirmation that Dr. Ben Burpee, GZA, will be presenting our 2023 monitoring results at the October 12, 2023 meeting at the Montville Public Safety Building.
- **Bozrah GLA Vacancy:** Under review.

### Minutes

The minutes of the August 10, 2023 meeting were presented for approval. Scott Soderberg made a motion to approve the minutes as presented; seconded by Chris Rios. The motion passed unanimously.

### Treasurer's Report

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

### Montville Patrol Proposal for 2024:

Montville Police Lt. David Radford II submitted Montville's proposal to patrol the lake next season, noting that staffing is good. Montville would work with GLA to establish patrol times and can notify GLA when they will be on the lake. There could be times when the schedule may need to be altered due to weather and other situations/conditions, and will communicate with GLA on any changes. Mike Socha has offered a boat dock slip to GLA's contracted patrol, as he has done for many years.

### Committee Business

- **Law Enforcement Patrol:** (See Montville Patrol above.)
- **Water Quality Sampling:** As noted above, the 2023 Macrophyte Survey by GZA will be presented at the October meeting. Scott reported that the survey was conducted at the beginning of August. Oxygen levels have been normal.
- **Dam/Drawdown Updates:** (See Communications above.) The water level as of this meeting date is 5.5" above level. If approved for drawdown, the State is looking to close the dam gate around November 1. We have informed DEEP that the drawdown needs to begin around October 15 in order to reach a full three' drawdown by December 1 - in order to allow our wildlife to adapt before the heavy frost sets in, and to begin the freezing of our shoreline invasive aquatic plants. This does not take into account that the lake is presently 5.5" higher so it may take longer to reach the full 3' drawdown.

Old Business- None.

New Business- None.

### Other Business

- **Gardner Lake Stakeholders:** It was suggested that stakeholders reach out to the Bozrah Fire Dept. for inclusion. They have a boat that could be used for emergencies.

### Public Comment

Val Hormat, Laurel Lock Campground, spoke about dangerous conditions that have been observed on the lake, including skiers with no spotters and dangerous behaviors of the jet skiers at the northern end of the lake. Patrol boats are no longer allowed to "pursue" boats. It is important to get descriptions and/or photos as accurate as possible. Val cautioned the group about a person at Laurel Lock that was bitten by a tick and is still suffering from babesiosis.

Tom Craney has observed ocean-going boats using the boat launch to clean out their boats and engines and then leaving.

Sue Coffee noted that tournament boats fishing in the CT River pose a **very serious threat** to other waterbodies by carrying invasive weeds, and specifically **hydrilla** which is a rapidly spreading invasive that is choking out parts of the CT River. Sue noted that the State has “Duty of Care” to protect Gardner Lake.

Mike Socha spoke about the practice of out-of-state cars paying to park at the Gardner Lake State Park and the 10:00 pm deadline for paying to the State.

**Next Meeting Date**

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, October 12, 2023 at the Montville Public Safety Building beginning at 7:00 pm. The 2023 Macrophyte Survey on the health of Gardner Lake will be presented.

**Adjournment**

Mike Magliano made a motion to adjourn at 8:57 p.m.; seconded by Chris Rios. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Kate Johnson,  
Secretary