

GARDNER LAKE AUTHORITY

270 Hartford Road
Salem, CT 06240

Meeting Minutes of November 21, 2024
Salem Town Hall

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

Attendees

Bozrah: Henry Granger, Justin LaPre, Don LaPre
Montville: Bill Wrobel, Scott Soderberg
Salem: Chris Rios, Lou Allen, Nicole Hecklinger

Recording Secretary: Kate Johnson

Absent: Mike Magliano

A quorum was noted.

Attendees: John Hummel, Sue Coffee, Jane Coffey, Charlotte Mihok, Chris Mihok, Val Hornat, Portia Wade.

Minutes

Minutes of the October meeting were presented. One item was noted: Scott Soderberg was excused. Justin LaPre made a motion to approve the minutes as amended; seconded by Lou Allen. The motion passed unanimously.

Administration, Communication and Correspondence

- **UConn CESE Invoice:** For final 2024 lab analysis in the amount of \$248.
- **Drawdown Approval Letter:** Dated 10/24/24, received from DEEP Commissioner Katie Dykes.
- **GZA Change Order:** In the amount of \$7,900 for additional work regarding hydrilla.
- **US Census:** Letter received regarding personnel.
- **Invoice from Kate Johson:** In the amount of \$221.02 for October minutes and printer toner.
- **Minutes from CT River Conservancy Meeting:** Dated 11/14/24, regarding Hydrilla in CT.
- **Email from Linda Brunza, DEEP Dam Safety:** Dated 11/21, confirming that the drawdown was underway with an anticipated 3' drawdown.
- **Inspection of Southern Shore for Hydrilla:** On November 19, Henry, Scott, Kate and Bob Kaufman inspected a segment of the southern shoreline. Hydrilla was hard to detect along the shallow shoreline, raising the question if hydrilla dies back once the water gets colder [but not as far down as the roots], or if the hydrilla was only present in deeper water columns than the shoreline.

Treasurer's Report

Chris Rios presented the Treasurer's Report.

Acknowledgements

GLA Chair, Henry Granger, extended GLA's appreciation to state representatives Holly Cheeseman and Kathleen McCarty for all their support of Gardner Lake in Hartford. Henry also thanked outgoing GLA member Tony LaSaracinia for his work with GLA.

Committee Business

- **Law Enforcement Patrol:** No Patrol Report has been received from Montville this year. Next year's approved patrol will be required contractually to submit patrol reports prior to payment approval.
- **Water Quality Sampling:**
 - GZA has submitted a change order in the amount of \$7,900 for additional work regarding hydrilla and for the annual presentation (which is included in the original contract). Nicole

Hecklinger made a motion to adhere to the terms of the contract as approved and signed; seconded by Bill Wrobel. The motion passed unanimously.

- Northeast Aquatics was hired to complete a survey for the two CT protected plants (*Sagittaria teres* and *Potamogeton vaseyi*) reported in Gardner Lake in 2006. This survey was required by DEEP's Natural Diversity Data Base (NDDB) before DEEP's Dam Safety agency would approve the 2024-2025 drawdown. The two plants were not found. As reported to GLA, the two plants would not have been found as they would have already gone by this late in the season. The cost to GLA for this survey was \$6,733. Northeast Aquatics responded to our request on short notice in order to get NDDB approval as quickly as possible.
- **Dam/Drawdown Updates:** This year's drawdown commenced on November 1, with the lake level currently down 2'. Henry attempted to run notices in The Day and The Bulletin to notify residents of the drawdown, but was unable to reach anyone, and received no responses from his voice messages. Justin discussed notifying the two affected towns downstream, Bozrah and Norwich, when the lake will be lowered, via letters to the chief town officials. The towns could then notify their respective residents via their source(s) of communications. Lou Allen made a motion to send communication to the three towns and Norwich, upon receipt of future drawdown approvals from DEEP, notifying them of the dam opening; seconded by Scott Soderberg. The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business – None.

New Business

- **UConn CESE Invoice:** Bill Wrobel made a motion to approve payment to CESE in the amount of \$248 for this year's final water quality lab analysis; seconded by Justin LaPre. The motion passed unanimously.
- **Invoice from Kate Johnson:** Lou Allen made a motion to approve payment to Kate in the amount of \$221.02 for the October minutes and reimbursement of toner; seconded by Bill Wrobel. The motion passed unanimously.
- **AIS Grant Application:** Henry has been preparing the AIS grant application for hydrilla eradication funding. In order to complete the application for the Dec. 6 closing date, treatment pricing and a detailed scope of work must be finalized for submission. Northeast Aquatics will be submitting their recommendations and pricing. Two other organizations have also been contacted. Sonar and Fluridone are two treatments being considered at the time of this meeting. A requirement of the AIS grant is 25% in-kind contribution.
- **2025 Budget:** The 2025 budget was prepared, excluding hydrilla funding, with a total operating budget of \$31,950. There was discussion about Salem's payment shortfalls impacting future funding from Bozrah and Montville. Bill Wrobel made a motion to approve the 2025 GLA Budget in the amount of \$31,950; seconded by Chris Rios. The budget passed unanimously.

Other Business

Lou Allen acknowledged GLA's accomplishments this year including getting the drawdown underway.

Public Comment

- **Charlotte and Chris Mihok:** The Mihoks inquired about the process to apply for swim markers. They were directed to the DEEP website for the application. Once the application is completed and a survey of the proposed swim area has been documented, the application will come to GLA and is then forwarded to DEEP for final approval.
- **Friends of Gardner Lake:** Sue Coffee has agreed to let GLA utilize the *Friends of Gardner Lake* Facebook page for information regarding hydrilla and its eradication.
- **Campgrounds for Communications:** Notifying campgrounds is another means of sharing hydrilla information, whereby the campground owners can disseminate information to their campers.
- **Jane Coffey:** Upon observation of the local fire departments drawing and releasing water at the boat launch, Jane recommended that fire departments should be made aware that siphoning water

from Gardner Lake, spraying and releasing unused water back into our local waterbodies could cause risk of spreading any hydrilla that might be sucked into their tanks.

- **Val Hornat:** Val expressed her appreciation to the GLA members for their service to Gardner Lake.

Next Meeting Date

GLA has concluded for the season. The next meeting will be held in March, the date to be announced in the new year.

Adjournment

Lou Allen made a motion to adjourn at 9:03 p.m.; seconded by Justin LePre. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kate Johnson". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

Kate Johnson,
Recording Secretary