

GARDNER LAKE AUTHORITY

270 Hartford Road
Salem, CT 06240

Meeting Minutes of March 13, 2025
Bozrah Senior Center

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m.

Attendees

Bozrah: Henry Granger, Don LaPre
Montville: Bill Wrobel, Scott Soderberg
Salem: Chris Rios

Recording Secretary: Kate Johnson

Excused: Justin LaPre, Lou Allen

Absent: Mike Magliano, Nicole Hecklinger

Public in attendance: Portia Wade, Peter Glasheen, Pat Lynch and Val Hornat.

A quorum was noted.

Election of Officers Elections were postponed until the April meeting.

Minutes

Minutes of the November 21, 2024 meeting were presented. Scott Soderberg made a motion to approve the minutes as presented; seconded by Bill Wrobel. The motion passed unanimously.

Administration, Communication and Correspondence

- **Invoice from Kate Johnson:** In the amount of \$60.00 for the preparation of the 2024 Annual Report.
- **GZA 2025 Water Quality Monitoring Proposal:** In the amount of \$13,000.
- **Correspondence from Linda Brunza, Dam Safety:** Stating that GLA can now apply for the 2025-2026 drawdown. She noted that if GLA should skip an annual drawdown, that the State would no longer do drawdowns at Gardner Lake.
- **AIS Grant:** GLA's application was not selected for funding. The maximum amount of contract awards was \$20,000.
- **CAES OAIS Aquatic Plant Workshop & OAIS Update:** Hosted at the CT Agricultural Experiment Station on Saturday, March 1. Scott and Kate attended. Greg Bugbee and three other CAES staffer members presented.
- **Senate Bill 641:** On March 3 the Environment Committee held a public hearing on proposed Senate bills. Sen. Martha Marx and Rep. Nick Menapace presented SB 641: An Act Establishing a Pilot Program for a Boat Washing Station at Gardner Lake in Salem. Henry and Kate submitted written testimony in support of the bill. Kate gave oral testimony at the hearing. The bill is requesting \$100,000 to install two boat washing stations that will use vacuuming instead of water removal of plant fragments.
- **U.S. Census:** The annual submission to GLA was received.

Treasurer's Report

Chris Rios presented the March Treasurer's Report. He will follow up with the December, January and February statements at the April meeting.

Committee Business

- **Law Enforcement Patrol:** This year's patrol contract will require an executed contract outlining the terms of the contract. Two of the criteria so far will be: 1) to appoint a designee from GLA to be notified when their boat will be on the lake, and 2) to provide monthly reports. If Montville is awarded the contract, Bill will work with Montville to see that reports are submitted. GLA will reach out to Lt. David Radford, Montville Police, inviting him to attend the April meeting. There was discussion regarding establishing one officer to coordinate enforcement presence on the ground and on the water.

- **Water Quality Sampling:** The GZA 2025 contract is holding at last year's rate of \$13,500. Scott explained that he does volunteer sampling once a month from April through October, except for the one month that GZA takes samples for their study. Following confusion over last year's contract tasks, GZA has confirmed that they will provide the remaining 2024 deliverables, including an oral presentation. The 2024 written report is still due.
- **Dam/Drawdown Updates:** Scott reported that this was a dry winter, raising concerns why it took so long to draw down the water level. He also noted that the Pond & Lake Connection (who provided the quote for hydrilla eradication used for the AIS grant application) also does dam inspections. This could be a helpful option to determine if the valve opening is not being fully exposed since the newer dam gate was installed. The Pond & Lake Connection has stated that it would take 2-3 months to secure a permit for hydrilla treatment. The cost would be \$200 for services and \$200 for the permit, for a total of \$400. The AIS stamp now required for vessel registrations in 2025 is gathering funding for 2026 hydrilla and invasive plant eradication projects. This funding will be a reimbursement for funds spent. Don LaPre made a motion to approve Pond & Lake Connection applying for a permit for chemical treatment in the amount of \$400; seconded by Scott Soderberg. The motion passed unanimously. It was noted that this would put GLA in a better position to apply for grant funding.

Old Business None.

New Business

- **Annual Report:** Bill Wrobel made a motion to approve a \$60 invoice from Kate Johnson for preparing the Annual Report; seconded by Chris Rios. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

- **Val Hornat:** Val thanked GLA for all their volunteer service. Val expressed concerns and shared research that she's done regarding the use of chemical herbicides to combat the hydrilla, and also allowing the herbicides to flow downstream during the drawdown. It was noted that any chemical treatment would take place early in the summer when the hydrilla is more susceptible to herbicides. She presented the concept of using triploid carp to eradicate the hydrilla. One downside to this option is that the sterile carp, although they do not reproduce, will eat all aquatic plants, natives as well as invasives, stripping the lake of plant life. Val offered to reach out to the campers at Laurel Lock to contact their legislators for support in eradicating Gardner Lake's hydrilla.
- **Kate Johnson:** Senate bill hearings with the Environment Committee took place in Hartford on March 3. Listening to testimonies for other issues that were brought to the Environment Committee, it was clear how important fishing is to the state's recreation, which results in issues with the transport of hydrilla via fishing tournaments. Kate spoke about turning the responsibility of the hydrilla over to DEEP until such time as their fishing tournaments and the lake's **Environmental Protection** can be addressed – halting the spread of hydrilla in and out of Gardner Lake. The concern is that there would be no point in paying for costly treatments while the State continues to promote fishing tournaments. There is hope that the proposed boat washing stations would offer one step in the control of hydrilla.

Next Meeting Date

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, April 10, 2025 at the Montville Public Safety Building beginning at 7:00 pm.

Adjournment

Chris Rios made a motion to adjourn at 8:42 p.m.; seconded by Bill Wrobel. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Kate Johnson,
Recording Secretary