

GARDNER LAKE AUTHORITY

270 Hartford Road
Salem, CT 06240

Meeting Minutes of April 10, 2025
Montville Public Safety Building

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

Attendees

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

Recording Secretary: Kate Johnson

Absent: Justin LaPre, Mike Magliano

Public in attendance: Montville Lt. David Radford, Jane Coffee, Nick Menapace

A quorum was noted.

Montville Patrol

Lt. Radford provided GLA members with 2024-2025 rates through the end of June, and proposed rates for 2025-2026 beginning on July 1. Monthly patrol reports will be required this season, with services commencing on Memorial Day weekend. Coverage on weekends continues to be a top priority, subject to weather conditions. Montville will communicate by email with a designated GLA member alerting GLA as to when there will be patrol presence on the lake.

When violations are observed on the lake, calls should be directed to CT DEEP at 860-424-3333. Jane Coffee noted that on weekdays in the summer jet skis are active on the lake from approximately 4:30 pm to 6:00 pm.

Election of Officers

The following slate of officers was presented:

Chair: Henry Granger

Co-Chair: Chris Rios

Treasurer: Chris Rios

Secretary: No nominees

With no secretary to cast a vote to approve, Scott Soderberg made a motion to approve the slate as presented, seconded by Bill Wrobel. The motion passed unanimously.

Minutes

Minutes of the March 13, 2025 meeting were presented. One correction was noted. Under Administration, Communication and Correspondence, GZA 2025 Water Quality Monitoring Proposal should be \$13,500. Chris Rios made a motion to approve the minutes as amended; seconded by Lou Allen. The motion passed unanimously.

Administration, Communication and Correspondence

- **DEEP Application for the 2025-26 Drawdown:** Upon receipt of the application, Henry reviewed the permit for the 2024-2025 drawdown, which stated that the Natural Diversity Data Base (NDDDB) approval was in effect until 2026. DEEP's Dam Safety supervisor, Linda Brunza, informed Henry that he needs to file an application with NDDDB. He will make inquiries to see if a NDDDB plant study is required for the 2025-2026 drawdown.
- **New England Aquatics:** Submitted a letter inquiring if GLA will be needing a plant study this season.
- **Invoice from Kate Johnson:** In the amount of \$120.00 for the preparation of the March 2025 minutes. Bill Wrobel made a motion to approve payment; seconded by Chris Rios. The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Chris Rios presented the April Treasurer's Report, including statement summaries from December, January, February and March.

Committee Business

- **Law Enforcement Patrol:** See above Montville Patrol. This year's budget includes \$14,000 for water patrol. Bill will work with Montville regarding the patrol reports.
- **Water Quality Sampling:** Scott will verify with GZA that this year's sampling will include four samples taken by Scott, and one sample taken by GZA when they do their annual study. GZA will be providing their past due 2024 presentation and electronic report as contracted. The 2025 presentation will be included again in this year's contract. Any extra work due to hydrilla will require a change order to the contract prior to billable work being performed. This year's contract will remain at last year's rate of \$10,800. Scott Soderberg made a motion to approve the 2025 GZA contract at \$10,800; seconded by Lou Allen. The motion passed unanimously.
- **Dam/Drawdown Updates:** See above: Administration, Communication and Correspondence, DEEP Application. Kate reported that this year the lake reached its first 3' drawdown in several years at the end of January, and not by December 1 as requested. The late drawdown puts aquatic wildlife species at great risk.

Old Business None.

New Business Covered above.

Legislative Update

Rep. Nick Menapace reported that Senate Bill 641: An Act Establishing a Pilot Program for a Boat Washing Station at Gardner Lake in Salem was approved by the Environment Committee, and has been forwarded to Appropriations. The bill calls for two stations, but there is discussion if one or two stations would be required. He feels optimistic that once that is decided, the bill should pass.

Public Comment

- **Jane Coffee:** Nicole prefaced by noting that local fire departments are unloading water from trucks into the lake. Henry has sent a letter to the Gardner Lake Volunteer Fire Co. regarding this issue. Jane reported that they do trainings at the lake. Recently the Oakdale Fire Department released water up the launch drive which flowed down the drive and into the lake. Jane inquired if fire departments could notify GLA when they are emptying water. Henry will check on that.
- **Kate Johnson:** Kate raised concerns about DEEP's irresponsibility and lack of management in overseeing the spread of hydrilla through CT waterbodies. As fishing tournaments are rapidly being scheduled throughout the state, there is no oversight except for the "*honor system*" for anglers to wash their boats between tournaments. This plan has not worked, as hydrilla continues to spread through the state. Of major concern at Gardner Lake now is that boats pulling out of Gardner can be spreading hydrilla to other locations.

Next Meeting Date

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, May 8, 2025 at the Salem Town Hall beginning at 7:00 pm.

Adjournment

Lou Allen made a motion to adjourn at 8:18 p.m.; seconded by Chris Rios. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Kate Johnson,
Recording Secretary