

GARDNER LAKE AUTHORITY

270 Hartford Road
Salem, CT 06240

Meeting Minutes of August 14, 2025
Salem Town Hall

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m.

Attendees

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

Recording Secretary: Kate Johnson

Absent: Mike Magliano

Guest: Jane Coffee

Salem First Selectman Ed Chmielewski has appointed Kim Diamatini to fill the Salem vacancy.

A quorum was noted.

Minutes

Minutes of the July 10, 2025 meeting were presented. Chris Rios made a motion to approve the minutes as presented; seconded by Lou Allen. The motion passed unanimously.

Administration, Communication and Correspondence

- **Montville Patrol Invoice:** Received in the amount of \$1,639.38 for patrol from June 12–June 26.
- **Invoice from Kate Johnson:** Kate submitted an invoice in the amount of \$100 for the July minutes (meeting attendance, preparation of minutes and electronic distribution). Bill Wrobel made a motion to approve payment; seconded by Justin LaPre. The motion passed unanimously.
- **Dominion Energy:** For consideration of Gardner Lake hydrilla control, Dominion Energy Charitable Foundation Fall Grant Cycle offers grant support; with one application criteria being environmental.
- **DEEP Natural Diversity Data Base:** Dated 7/28/25, Henry received a letter from Bill Moorehead, NDDB, informing GLA that the 2024 aquatic plant study report will remain in effect for the 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 annual drawdowns, and those will not require a new study. DEEP has noted that this year's drawdown is expected to run from late October through late February, at a drawdown level of 3' to 4'.
- **Montville Patrol Contract:** Henry sent the contract drafted by Lou to Lt. Radford on 7/23/25, which outlines the verbally agreed upon criteria for the 2025 patrol season.

Treasurer's Report

Chris Rios presented the August Treasurer's Report. Montville's 2025 payment-in-full of \$9,585 has been received.

Committee Business

- **Law Enforcement Patrol:** As of this meeting date, no patrol report has been received for the invoiced June coverage. Justin LaPre made a motion to withhold payment until the report, as agreed upon, is received; seconded by Chris Rios. The motion passed unanimously. Lou offered to write a letter requesting the report. Justin raised the question about hours invoiced vs. actual arrival time on the lake. On one invoiced date there was an hour difference.
- **Water Quality Sampling:** Scott reported that GZA will be conducting their annual survey on 8/15/25. To date, the 2024 Macrophyte Survey report has not been received. Scott also confirmed that he has observed hydrilla growing in the southern end of the lake, with some heavier

concentrations, and also along a portion of the eastern shoreline. Another observation has been the significant reduction of variable-leaf milfoil, one of Gardner's past invasive plants, noting that sometimes plants will cycle and die off. Bill raised the question if hot weather affects aquatic plant growth, as this summer was so warm.

- **Dam/Drawdown Updates:** Currently the water level is down 1”.

Old Business None.

New Business None.

Public Comment

- **Salem First Selectman Ed Chmielewski:** For his final summer as first selectman, Ed noted that he will not be running for office again, but does plan to stay actively involved with Salem. As Salem's team coordinator for the state park and state boat launch, he reported that the combined efforts of DEEP, state police, towns and chief town officials, legislators, GLA and others have resulted in notable improvements at the park area.
- **Jane Coffee:** Jane reported that DEEP has done a really good job this summer at the park and launch. They have had a greater presence, have been managing parking and have been doing careful inspections of boats.
- **Kate Johnson and Scott Soderberg:** Kate and Scott reported on a virtual meeting hosted by the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) on 8/6/25 regarding federal funding received in CT for hydrilla: *CT River Hydrilla Research & Demonstration Project*. The mission of the project is to develop and make available electronically (via tech transfer) the best management practices (bmps) by developing a strategy and treatment plan.

This will be achieved through a 6-Phase project to include 1) Data Collection, Growth Studies, etc., 2) Demonstration, 3) Herbicide Assays – Mesocosms, 4) Herbicide Treatment, 5) Plant Biology & Ecology Study, and 6) End-Use Guidance / Tech Transfer.

Items of Note:

- CT River starts at the Canadian border.
- The CT River strain of hydrilla is not found anywhere else in the United States outside of CT and Agawam, MA where it begins.
- Hydrilla first discovered in Florida in the 1950s, and in the Potomac in the 1980s.
- The name hydrilla came from Greek Mythology from the Hydra Serpent – cutting off one head made two grow back.
- In CT, hydrilla begins to grow again in May and June, August is the greatest growing period and by September and October it declines for the winter.
- According to USACE, the herbicide Diquat does not present danger. [Some concern still exists outside of USACE].

Next Meeting Date

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, September 11, 2025 at the Bozrah Senior Center beginning at 7:00 pm. The public is welcome to attend.

Adjournment

Chris Rios made a motion to adjourn at 8:30 p.m.; seconded by Justin LaPre. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Kate Johnson,
Recording Secretary