

GARDNER LAKE AUTHORITY

270 Hartford Road
Salem, CT 06240

Meeting Minutes of November 13, 2025
Salem Town Hall

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

Attendees

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

Recording Secretary: Kate Johnson
Excused: Henry Granger, Justin LaPre
Absent: Mike Magliano, Kim Diamatini
Guests: Jane Coffey, Charlotte Mihok and Chris Mihok

A quorum was noted by Acting Chair Chris Rios.

GZA Annual Report

Limnologist Dr. Benjamin Burpee, GZA, presented a combined 2024 & 2025 Gardner Lake Monitoring Report. The goals for Gardner Lake include: 1) maintaining total phosphorus; 2) maintaining dissolved oxygen; 3) maintaining water transparency to a depth of at least three meters; and 4) preventing [and/or managing] nuisance aquatic plants. Information is gathered through the use of high frequency remote data loggers which are installed each year into the deep hole north of Minnie Island. The data loggers are removed at the end of each season. The report concluded that Gardner Lake continues to maintain good water quality and clarity. GZA continues to monitor any changes in the deep hole that would require attention.

Water quality samples are taken several times during the season by GLA volunteer Scott Soderberg. The samples are sent to a lab at UConn for analysis and the results are then shared with GZA for comprehensive inclusion into the report.

Hydrilla continues to spread throughout the lake, and the colonies are becoming denser due to rapid growth. The heaviest concentrations continue along the southern and northern ends of the lake, with several smaller concentrations along the eastern and western shores. Because the hydrilla has spread into deeper water, herbicidal treatment will be the best, and likely only, option for managing and eventually eradicating the hydrilla. Two types of herbicides available for hydrilla are *contact* which kill on contact, such as Diquat, and *systemic* which incorporates into the biomass, such as fluridone (trade name Sonar). Gardner's pre-existing invasive aquatic plants, fanwort and variable-leaf milfoil, have shown a decrease in populations.

Nitrogen, which is oxygen rich, supports healthy phytoplankton. Dr. Burpee recommended that GLA consider monitoring of phytoplankton in 2026.

Following a question-and-answer period, the presentation concluded at 8:50 pm. After a short break, the meeting reconvened at 8:55 pm.

Minutes

Minutes of the September 11, 2025 meeting were presented. Scott Soderberg made a motion to approve the minutes as presented; seconded by Lou Allen. The motion passed unanimously.

The October meeting was cancelled due to a lack of quorum.

Administration, Communication and Correspondence

- **Invoice from UConn CESE:** An invoice in the amount of \$496 for lab analysis was presented. Lou Allen made a motion to approve payment to UConn CESE; seconded by Bill Wrobel. The motion passed unanimously.
- **Invoice from GZA:** An invoice for partial payment in the amount of \$2,525 was presented. Scott Soderberg made a motion to approve the partial payment to GZA; seconded by Lou Allen. The motion passed unanimously.
- **Invoice from Kate Johnson:** An invoice in the amount of \$120.16 for printer toner was presented. Lou Allen made a motion to approve payment to Kate; seconded by Scott Soderberg. The motion passed unanimously.
- **Invoices from Montville Police for Water Patrol:** Three invoices in the amounts of \$2,131.19 for June, \$828.17 for July and \$627.04 for August, totaling \$3,586.40, were presented. Don LaPre made a motion to approve payment in the amount of \$3,586.40; seconded by Lou Allen. The motion passed unanimously.
- **GLA By-laws:** Distributed to GLA members for review of member appointments.

Treasurer's Report

Chris Rios presented the combined October and November Treasurer's Report.

Committee Business

- **Law Enforcement Patrol:** CT DEEP and Montville Police will be invited to bid for the 2026 season's patrol. In 2026 a contract/agreement will be required.
- **Water Quality Sampling:** See GZA Report above.
- **Dam/Drawdown Updates:** The dam gate was opened on October 27, 2025.

Old Business None.

New Business

- **2026 GLA Meeting Schedule:** Lou Allen made a motion to approve the 2026 Meeting Schedule; seconded by Bill Wrobel. The motion passed unanimously.
- **2025 GLA Annual Report:** After review, the 2025 Annual Report was approved by consensus.
- **2026 GLA Annual Budget:** Don LaPre made a motion to approve the 2026 Annual Budget; seconded by Bill Wrobel. The upcoming budget has had no increase. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

- **Jane Coffey:** Jane spoke about a thick concentration of milfoil that has been present over time along the southwestern portion of the lake.
- **Chris and Charlotte Mihok:** Chris and Charlotte spoke of reaching out to residents around the lake for the purpose of hydrilla response planning.

Next Meeting Date

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, March 12, 2026 at the Bozrah Senior Center beginning at 7:00 pm. The public is welcome to attend.

Adjournment

Scott Soderberg made a motion to adjourn at 9:30 p.m.; seconded by Bill Wrobel. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Kate Johnson,
Recording Secretary