

GARDNER LAKE AUTHORITY

270 Hartford Road
Salem, CT 06240

Meeting Minutes of March 12, 2026
Bozrah Senior Center

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m.

Attendees

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

Recording Secretary: Kate Johnson

No guests in attendance.

A quorum was noted.

Election of Officers Elections were postponed until the April meeting due to pending potential vacancy confirmations in Montville and Salem.

Minutes

Minutes of the November 13, 2025 meeting were presented. Scott Soderberg made a motion to approve the minutes as presented; seconded by Lou Allen. The motion passed unanimously.

Administration, Communication and Correspondence

The following three email votes for the 2025 season were approved between the November and March meetings, all within approved budgeted amounts:

- **UConn CESE Invoice:** Payment in the amount of \$15.47 for lab analysis of water quality samples.
 - **GZA Invoice:** Payment in the amount of \$4,625.00 for water quality studies.
 - **GZA Invoice:** Payment in the amount of \$2,720.00 for water quality studies.
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- **UConn CESE Invoice (2025):** In the amount of \$108.53. Justin LaPre made a motion to approve payment, seconded by Bill Wrobel. The motion passed unanimously.
 - **Pond and Lakes Connection:** A proposal in the amount of \$1,300 was received for the mobilization of hydrilla planning, with a limited timeframe for holding this amount. Two estimates were provided for herbicidal treatments: 1) Harpoon (Sonar) at \$815/acre for each acre approved for treatment; and 2) \$360/acre for each approved acre for treatment. Treatment area would be based on need. Additional estimate(s) will be pursued.
 - **Boat Launch Washing Station:** SB 641: An Act Establishing a Pilot Program for a Boat Washing Station at Gardner Lake in Salem [presented to the Environment Committee on March 3, 2025] was approved and passed in the General Budget. Funding was not brought forward for implementation. GLA will reach out to State Senator Martha Marx for follow-up.
 - **2026 CAES Plant Survey:** Greg Bugbee from the CT Agricultural Experiment Station's Office of Aquatic Invasive Species will be conducting a plant survey this season which will locate hydrilla concentrations at Gardner Lake.

Treasurer's Report

Chris Rios presented the December, January, February & March Treasurer's Reports.

Committee Business

- **Law Enforcement Patrol:** Montville was unable to provide full coverage as requested in 2025. Bill will check with the Town, and invite representation to attend the April meeting in Montville.
- **Water Quality Sampling:** The **2026 GZA Proposal for Gardner Lake Monitoring Program**, in the amount of \$13,850, was presented. Scott Soderberg made a motion for approval; seconded by Lou Allen. The motion passed unanimously.

- **Dam/Drawdown Updates:** The dam was opened on October 27 and closed on or about March 5. A drawdown level of 3' (requested by December 1) was reached at the end of January.
- **Hydrilla:** A group of CT stakeholders, Connecticut Waterbody Stewards, held a video meeting on February 24. Attendees included representatives from CT Agricultural Experiment Station, CT Federation of Lakes, Lake Associations and CT DEEP. Gardner Lake was invited to attend. The meeting included discussion of:
 1. Placing aquatic invasive species inspectors at CT boat launches;
 2. funding for inspector programs;
 3. boat washing stations;
 4. AIS marker systems to identify heavy hydrilla concentrations;
 5. sharing information;
 6. working with fisheries (inc. clean, drain, dry protocol);
 7. liability insurance;
 8. and reallocating fishing funding.Additionally, there was discussion of fast-tracking hydrilla permitting.

Old Business None.

New Business

- **Application to Drawdown:** Henry noted that DEEP's Natural Diversity Data Base protected plant report for 2025 also covers Gardner Lake through 2026, so this will not delay this year's application for drawdown.

Public Comment

Next Meeting Date

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, April 9, 2026 at the Montville Public Safety Building beginning at 7:00 pm.

Adjournment

Chris Rios made a motion to adjourn at 8:11 p.m.; seconded by Scott Soderberg. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Kate Johnson,
Recording Secretary