

GARDNER LAKE AUTHORITY

270 Hartford Road
Salem, CT 06240

Meeting Minutes of May 14, 2026
Salem Town Hall

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m.

Attendees

Bozrah: Henry Granger, Justin LaPre
Montville: Bill Wrobel, Scott Soderberg, John MacNeil
Salem: Chris Rios, Lou Allen, Jane Coffey

Recording Secretary: Kate Johnson

Absent: Don LaPre

Guests: Greg Bugbee and Summer Weidman, CT Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES); Captain Vincent Mazzotta and Officer Eugene Diefenbach, CT DEEP Encon; John Hummel, Sue Coffee, Val Hornat and Salem First Selectwoman Sue Spang.

A quorum was noted.

Welcome: Henry introduced newly appointed Montville member John MacNeil.

CT DEEP Encon: Regarding the 2026 patrol season, Captain Mazzotta and Officer Diefenbach spoke of increased officer staffing within Encon, including seven new extra hires for the 4th of July weekend.

There was discussion about the AIS sticker now required for boating, one option requiring just a single boat owner/operator or a second option that would include all drivers of a watercraft. This sticker is not currently required for paddle sports. Encon continues to educate boaters on the spread of invasive plant species including hydrilla.

Ticket cost for waterbody infraction is \$75 and cost for not having an AIS sticker is \$90. Residents are encouraged to reach out to their local legislators to push for increased fines, as well as for additional state police officers.

2026 CAES Plant Survey and Hydrilla Update: CAES's *Office of Aquatic Invasive Species* (OAIS) team members, Greg Bugbee and Summer Weidman, spoke about the spread of hydrilla throughout CT's waterbodies in recent years. Three herbicides were outlined including Fluridone, Diquat and Endothall. A fourth herbicide, Harpoon, was considered to be less of an option for Gardner Lake. Through the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (US ACE), a cost share funding program is being developed to assist with the high cost of herbicidal treatments, offering 50% reimbursement for approved projects. The program would include the following steps:

1. Proposal for treatment.
2. CAES OAIS would submit the proposal to the US ACE for their approval.
3. US ACE would approve the proposal for funding.
4. At the end of the approved treatment project, US ACE would provide 50% reimbursement.

The 50% reimbursement would include permit costs, herbicides and application. It was noted that focus up to this point has been on waterbodies within the CT River Watershed, with hope for expansion.

Minutes

Minutes of the April 9, 2026 meeting were presented. A correction was noted to correct the spelling from Jane Coffee to **Jane Coffey**. Justin LaPre made a motion to approve the minutes as corrected; seconded by Bill Chris Wrobel. The motion passed unanimously.

Administration, Communication and Correspondence

- **Invoice from Kate Johnson:** In the amount of \$100 for the April meeting minutes. Scott Soderberg made a motion to approve payment; seconded by Chris Rios. The motion passed unanimously.
- **CAES 2026 Aquatic Plant Survey Scope of Services:** The scope, dated April 29, 2026, was distributed to GLA members for review. A survey will be conducted to identify vegetation species and abundance, along with water transparency, dissolved oxygen, temperature, alkalinity, conductivity, pH, and total phosphorous. A summary report, including comparisons to previous CAES surveys in 2006 and 2015, will be provided. The cost will be \$5,000.
- **2025-2026 DEEP Drawdown Invoice:** Based on 10 visits, the invoice amount is \$343.24. Justin LaPre made a motion to approve payment; seconded by Jane Coffey. The motion passed unanimously.
- **2026-2027 Drawdown Request:** Henry submitted the request for the upcoming drawdown this fall/winter. DEEP confirmed receipt of the request on April 9.

Treasurer's Report

Chris Rios presented the May Treasurer's Report.

Committee Business

- **Law Enforcement Patrol:** Montville has reported short staffing for this year, and is unable to commit to July 4th weekend coverage. Chris Rios made a motion to award the 2026 patrol contract to DEEP Encon; seconded by Scott Soderberg. The motion passed unanimously.
- **Water Quality Sampling:** Scott Soderberg made a motion to approve \$5,000 for the CAES aquatic plant survey; seconded by Jane Coffey. The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business None.

New Business See above.

Public Comment

- **John MacNeil:** John spoke about consideration for installing cameras at the boat ramp to monitor nighttime activities.
- **Val Hornat:** Val thanked the Gardner Lake Authority for volunteering their time and their work in protecting Gardner Lake.
- **Sue Spang:** Sue informed GLA of support that the Town of Salem is receiving from DEEP for enforcement coverage at the boat launch.

Next Meeting Date

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, June 11, 2026 at Maples Farm, Bozrah, beginning at 7:00 pm. The public is welcome to attend.

Adjournment

Chris Rios made a motion to adjourn at 9:14 p.m.; seconded by Scott Soderberg. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Kate Johnson,
Recording Secretary