

GARDNER LAKE AUTHORITY
270 Hartford Road
Salem, CT 06240

Meeting Minutes of July 9, 2026
Montville Public Safety Building

Henry Granger, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

Attendees

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

Recording Secretary: Kate Johnson
Guests: State Senator Martha Marx, Val Hornat
A quorum was noted.

Minutes

Minutes of the June 11, 2026 meeting were presented. Justin LaPre made a motion to approve the minutes; seconded by Lou Allen. The motion passed unanimously.

State Senator Martha Marx

Senator Marx reported that although *Senate Bill No. 641: An Act Establishing a Pilot Program for a Boat Washing Station at Gardner Lake in the Town of Salem*, was approved into the state budget, it was not funded. Senator Marx also noted that CT DEEP Commissioner Katie Dykes is leaving her position. Brian Williams is the new Director of State Parks. Lou inquired how GLA may be able to help with the washing stations, maybe letters if opportunity arises. There was discussion about Lake Beseck in Middlefield and growing interest as to how they were able to get their drawdown into state statute. Information will be forwarded to Senator Marx.

Administration, Communication and Correspondence

- **Invoice from Kate Johnson:** In the amount of \$60 for the June meeting minutes. Scott Soderberg made a motion to approve payment; seconded by Lou Allen. The motion passed unanimously.
- **Email from Ponds & Lakes:** In early June Henry received an email containing GLA's permit for using chemicals to treat Gardner Lake, noting that there were four approved locations. The CT Agricultural Experiment Station will be conducting an aquatic plant survey of the lake in July. This comprehensive report will be available around February 2027 and will highlight the heaviest concentrations of hydrilla.
- **New DEEP Patrol Insurance:** Henry spoke with Captain Vinny Mazzotta, CT Encon, notifying GLA that DEEP now requires Gardner Lake to carry 1-2 million dollars of liability insurance coverage for third party damages.
- **AIS Stamps:** Jane has seen a brown DEEP boat checking for AIS stamps.
- **State Boating Division:** Don Lapre made a motion authorizing Henry to contact DEEP's Boating Division Director, Peter Francis, about how GLA can coordinate with them to enforce the boating laws on Gardner Lake; seconded by Lou Allen. The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Chris Rios presented the June Treasurer's Report.

Committee Business

- **Law Enforcement Patrol:** The patrol agreement has not been executed due to the new insurance requirement. See above.
- **Water Quality Sampling:** The GZA water quality study is on schedule for July.
- **Drawdowns:** Drawdowns extended out much further during the 1970s and 1980s, and especially in the 1960s. When the boat launch was redone in 2007-2008, GLA was still required to pay for the drawdown, even though that drawdown was necessary to the State to complete the new boat launch. Years ago, the State had done the drawdowns at no charge in order to manage their waterbodies. It was a simple process. With the presence of hydrilla, there is even greater concern to get the drawdowns timely - as one form of hydrilla management. It is reportedly the responsibility of DEEP's Natural Diversity Database (NDDDB) to determine Gardner Lake's drawdown dates.

Don LaPre requested going on record that he is opposed to paying for the opening and closing of the dam gate.

Old Business None.

New Business None.

Public Comment

Val Hornat: Following a family history spanning over 100 years on the lake, Val shared that family members remember big drawdowns occurring during their whole lives. Uncas Health District had been doing regular water testing at Laurel Lock Campground. She explained that no fertilizers or pesticides are allowed at Laurel Lock in order to prevent runoff into the lake. Based on water quality reporting, Scott stated that the lake shows very little evidence of chemicals in the water. Back in the 1950s the Gardner Lake dam was managed by the Falls Mills staff, and is now covered by DEEP's Gillette Castle staff. Val expressed her appreciation for the volunteer work of the Gardner Lake Authority.

Next Meeting Date

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, August 13, 2026 at the Salem Town Hall, beginning at 7:00 pm. The public is welcome to attend.

Adjournment

Chris Rios made a motion to adjourn at 8:24 p.m.; seconded by Justin LaPre. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Kate Johnson,
Recording Secretary