

GARDNER LAKE AUTHORITY

270 Hartford Road
Salem, CT 06240

Meeting Minutes of August 13, 2026
Salem Town Hall

Henry Granger, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.

Attendees

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

Recording Secretary: Kate Johnson

Absent: Justin LaPre, Don LaPre

Guests: Breanna Horton, State Legislative Aide; Sue Sprang, Salem First Selectwoman; John Hummel, Kris Kehoe, Val Hornat

A quorum was noted.

Minutes

Minutes of the July 9, 2026 meeting were presented. Chris Rios made a motion to approve the minutes; seconded by Bill Wrobel. The motion passed unanimously.

Administration, Communication and Correspondence

- **2026 Montville Payment:** In the amount of \$9,585 was received in full.
- **Invoice from Kate Johnson:** In the amount of \$120 for the July meeting minutes. Lou Allen made a motion to approve payment; seconded by Scott Soderberg. The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Chris Rios presented the July Treasurer's Report.

Committee Business

- **Law Enforcement Patrol:** Henry spoke with DEEP Encon officer Capt. Vinny Mazzotta and Mary Morgillo [DEEP Fiscal Manager]. DEEP will not be providing patrols this year. Henry researched cost for DEEP's third-party insurance with three agencies, which is now required by DEEP to deliver hired patrol services to Gardner Lake. Prices run approximately \$40/month and require a full year policy commitment. State statute protects GLA members. The State now claims that liability insurance will be required to protect the towns. However, in the event of an infraction, citizens may still phone in a complaint with DEEP Encon at **860-424-3333**.
- **Water Quality Sampling:**
 - ❖ Scott reported that Dr. Ben Burpee, GZA, performed the comprehensive July sampling and plant study. Scott will check with Ben about presenting his report at the October meeting. Dissolved oxygen has been detected as deep as 8 meters, likely due to the big rainfalls. Photoplankton was recorded at around 5 meters.
 - ❖ Researching pamphlets on fertilizer awareness education, for distribution to residents within the Gardner Lake watershed, was discussed.
 - ❖ Jane located an online listing of invasive aquatic species regulations for multiple states, with varying degrees of hydrilla regulation(s). Some states have been extremely proactive when hydrilla was discovered in state waterbodies.
- **Drawdowns:** There was discussion about past communication and service issues with DEEP regarding the timing and performance of our contracted drawdowns; and what assistance timely service of drawdowns would provide to shoreline hydrilla management.

Old Business None.

New Business

- **Statewide Hydrilla:** Breanna Horton, legislative aide to State Senator Martha Marx, recommended sending a letter inquiring what the State's plan and regulations are to address hydrilla statewide. John MacNeil made a motion authorizing Henry to send a letter to DEEP; seconded by Lou Allen. The motion passed unanimously.

Breanna informed GLA that Martha had recently attended a hydrilla meeting in Hartford where she spoke out about Gardner's hydrilla. She will continue to speak out on behalf of Gardner Lake.

- **Fisheries Regulations:** Jane informed members that DEEP Fisheries has changed regulations which now ban the use of live-wells for tournaments, except for two CT lakes, including Gardner Lake. A letter should be sent to Peter Francis to inquire why live-wells are allowed at Gardner Lake but banned from so many other state lakes. Releasing a catch-and-release fish away from its nest leaves young fish at risk for predators.

Public Comment

- **Kris Kehoe:** Kris spoke about establishing a legislative contact to provide communications and a direct voice between DEEP and GLA.
- **John Hummel:** DEEP has passed a new law, with little to no notice, requiring all non-motorized vessels to display ID to include name and phone number.
- **Sue Spang:** Sue noted a new fee of \$100 payable to the State for *each* Salem first responder training on the lake. Salem has established a Gardner Lake webpage on their website.
- **Val Hornat:** Val reported that recently there have been dead fish found along the shore of Laurel Lock Campground. These occurrences would fall outside the naturally occurring fish kill which happens during temperature changes in the spring. Val also inquired about dredging around the dam. She also noted that there are no lawn chemicals/fertilizers allowed at Laurel Lock, and encourages awareness and education of chemical runoff from fertilizers into the lake.
- **Kate Johnson:** Kate shared that she attended an informal meeting on July 21 to discuss Gardner's hydrilla. Management options discussed included dredging, the use of chemical treatment – with Sonar being the most expensive and safest to native plants, matting and torching shorelines following the drawdown *and* securing timely drawdowns from DEEP. There were questions about what the State might require for permits by a licensed applicator for private homeowners and campgrounds if they wanted to treat their own areas. Potential funding sources were also discussed.

Next Meeting Date

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, September 10, 2026 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 8:33 p.m.; seconded by Jane Coffey. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Kate Johnson,
Recording Secretary