

GARDNER LAKE AUTHORITY

270 Hartford Road
Salem, CT 06240

Special Meeting Minutes of December 17, 2014
Salem Town Hall

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m.

Attendees

Bozrah: Henry Granger, Jim McArdle
Montville: Bill Wrobel, Kate Johnson, Mike Magliano
Salem: Bob Neddo, Larry Harrington

Excused: Russ Smith, Scott Soderberg

Guests: 4

A quorum was noted.

Attachments

- Approved [Revised] 2015 Budget
- CAES Scope of Services for the 2015 Aquatic Plant Survey

New Business: Fire Hydrant

Jim Savalle, Chief of the Gardner Lake Fire Department (GLFD) addressed the Authority with concerns about drawing water from the hydrant located at the boat launch. The GLFD's goal is to maintain the lake's water level at one foot above the filter fabric of the dry well for the draw. During the drawdown, Jim is concerned that the lower level of the lake interrupts the draw for that hydrant.

Jim explained about the importance of keeping multiple hydrants functioning, and the importance of partnership between the towns, working as a team providing mutual aid to the region as needed.

Some of the primary reasons for the annual drawdown, which has taken place for several decades, are as follows:

- Control of invasive aquatic plants;
- Prevention of shoreline erosion;
- Control of flooding downstream [between the dam and Yantic River which merges into the Thames River in Norwich] during the winter thaw and early spring rains;
- Prevention of property damage along the lake's shoreline.

[Per DEEP, Gardner Lake is unique in that due to the longevity of its drawdowns, the native wildlife has adapted to this annual practice.]

Over the past several months, GLA has been working with Greg Bugbee, CT DEEP, from the Connecticut Agriculture Experiment Station (CAES) in New Haven, to schedule an invasive aquatic plant survey. This has been budgeted and approved to be conducted the last week of July or first week in August, 2015. CAES last performed a survey at Gardner Lake in 2006. This survey will provide valuable information regarding invasive plant populations. The CAES leads on this survey next summer will be Greg Bugbee and Jennifer Fanzutti.

Meanwhile, Chief Savallas will provide GLA with photos of the hydrant draw in its current location at the boat launch. GLFD will contact the DEEP hydrant engineer about the original design plans and options to allow for optimum draw for the hydrants.

There was discussion regarding grant opportunities to move the hydrant draw out several feet, but there was concern that the rocks that hold the filter fabric in place would become a navigational hazard to boats at the launch. It is anticipated that the photos from GLFD will provide a better analysis of this proposed hazard.

In mutual agreement between GLA and GLFD, there will be no changes to routine procedures at Gardner Lake for the 2014-15 winter season. GLFD will receive GLA's 2015 meeting schedule and will plan to attend 2015 meetings to work towards an agreement of support with GLA to accommodate both public safety and sound lake stewardship.

Other Business

- A) **2015 GLA Budget**: The 2015 GLA budget approved at the November meeting was presented with a revision. Larry Harrington made a motion to approve the revised budget as presented; seconded by Bill Wrobel. The motion passed unanimously.
- B) **Two Ecosystem Invoices**: Two invoices, in the amounts of \$161.25 and \$105.00 were presented for payment. Both invoices fall within the contractual amount. Jim McArdle made a motion to approve payment of the two invoices; seconded by Larry Harrington. The motion passed unanimously.
- C) **Slow-No-Wake-Zone**: Montville's ordinance has been approved by DEEP, designating the area between Pequot Ledge Campground and Minnie Island as a Slow-No-Wake-Zone. Mike Magliano, owner of the campground, has volunteered to install the buoys out in the water. DEEP will be contacted for permission to install the buoys.
- D) **Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station**: We have received the scope of services and price quote (\$2,500) for the 2015 Aquatic Plant Survey to be conducted at the end of July, 2015.
- E) **Email from Russ Smith**: Kate read an email from GLA Chair, Russ Smith, who was unable to attend the meeting due to a prior commitment, which supported working with the local fire departments during regular meetings in 2015 to reach a resolve while preserving the quality of the lake.

Next Meeting Date

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, March 12, 2015 at the Bozrah Senior Center at 7:00 pm.

Adjournment

Bill Wrobel made a motion to adjourn at 7:40 p.m.; seconded by Mike Magliano. The motion was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,



Kate Johnson,
Secretary