

GARDNER LAKE AUTHORITY

270 Hartford Road
Salem, CT 06240

Special Meeting Minutes of September 26, 2016 Salem Town Hall

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

Attendees

Bozrah: Henry Granger, Scott Soderberg, Jim McArdle
Montville: Bill Wrobel, Kate Johnson, Mike Magliano
Salem: Bob Neddo, Russ Smith

Absent: Larry Harrington
A quorum was noted.

Guests: Barbara Magliano, Gary Grenier, Jeanne Grenier, Sue Coffee, John Hummel, Mike Payton, Glenn Pianka, Jim Savalle, Ross Robbins, Florence Robbins, Beth Hogan, Ron McDaniel, Kevin Lyden and Kevin Ryan, Bill Schultz.

Special Meeting

GLA called a Special Meeting to discuss the request made by the Gardner Lake Fire Dept. to the First Selectmen of Bozrah and Salem and the Mayor of Montville to cancel the annual drawdown of Gardner Lake for 2016-17 due to the 14' drawdown of Oxoboxo Lake this year for the repair of their dam. The goal of the meeting is to discuss options to secure full capacity at the hydrant which provides for public safety while balancing the health of Gardner Lake. The drawdown helps to control invasive aquatic plants, prevents shoreline erosion, helps control flooding downstream during the spring rains and helps to prevent property damage along the shoreline. Responses to the request follow.

- **GLA letter to Chief Town Officials:** In response to the letter from the Gardner Lake Fire Dept. (GLFD) requesting the halting of the Gardner Lake drawdown, GLA offered to consider a 2' drawdown vs. the annual 3' drawdown to support the mutual aid water shortage from Oxoboxo's drawdown.
- **Email from Art Christian, Supervising Civil Engineer for DEEP Dam Safety:** No permit application has been submitted for Oxoboxo's dam repair. Due to the length of time to process a permit application, the drawdown will not be taking place this construction season.
- **Email from Mike Payton, Supervisor for DEEP Navigation & Boating Infrastructure Unit, Boating Division:** DEEP does not maintain the dry hydrants at Gardner Lake.
- **Jennifer Perry, P.E. Supervising Environmental Analyst for DEEP Engineering Services:** The scheduled replacement of the gate at the Gardner Lake Dam does not require a drawdown.
- **2014 GLA Special Meeting with GLFD regarding water supply to dry hydrants on Gardner Lake:** GLA called a Special Meeting on 12/17/2014 to discuss the Fire Dept.'s concerns about water supply to the dry hydrant at the State Boat Launch. There was a question if the engineering of the hydrant had taken into account the annual drawdown. A request was made to the Fire Dept. to provide photos of the intake area.
- **Invasive aquatic plants in Gardner Lake:** Two invasive aquatic plants are present in Gardner Lake: variable-leaf milfoil (*Myriophyllum heterophyllum*) and fanwort (*Cabomba caroliniana*). The annual drawdown, which has been occurring for decades, has been noted by the State and by limnologist Dr. Robert Kortmann to be controlling the spread of these invasives. Recently several GLA members had attended a forum at Connecticut College sponsored by the CT Federation of Lakes. The main focus of

discussion was the presence, spread and eradication of invasives in CT lakes. The cost ran into the tens of thousands of dollars per year per lake, and in some cases needed to be repeated from one year to the next, and the measure of success was varied.

- **Mike Payton:** Mike reported that the hydrant at the Gardner Lake Boat Launch was installed shortly before the federal government called for a moratorium disallowing hydrants that would impact boating at federal sites. (The Gardner Lake boat launch was constructed with federal funds.) The hydrant at the boat launch is grandfathered.
- **Jim Savalle, Gardner Lake Fire Dept. Chief:** Chief Savalle explained that when the lake is drawn down there isn't sufficient draw to the hydrant. Boats stir up the silt around the intake, and the Fire Dept. backwashes three times per year.
- **Engineering study:** Doing an engineering study was proposed to see what options might exist for moving the intake out deeper. The goal would be to provide full capacity to the hydrant and still be able to conduct the drawdown.
- **Past hydrant performance:** The hydrant was installed at the boat launch approximately 8 years ago. Chief Savalle said that problems with the capacity have been developing over the past 4 years or so, and that in the early years after construction there was good flow.
- **Topography:** It was recommended that the topography from the intake, and on out further into the water, could be researched through DEEP's Land Acquisition and Management Division to help plan how far out the intake should be moved in order to cause no interference with boating.
- **Measurement of water above the intake:** GLA will get this measurement and will provide that information at the October meeting, as an assist to the Fire Dept.
- **Dry well:** To date, no inspections have been done on the dry well since installation.
- **Spot checks:** It was proposed that during the 2016-17 drawdown (now that Oxoboxo will not be drawing down this year) that the Fire Dept. could perform spot checks on the intake that might be helpful in planning.

Next Meeting Date

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, October 13, 2016 at the Montville Public Safety Building at 7:00 pm.

Adjournment

By consensus, the meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Kate Johnson,
Secretary