

GARDNER LAKE AUTHORITY

270 Hartford Road
Salem, CT 06240

Meeting Minutes of September 12, 2019 Bozrah Senior Center

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Kate Johnson, Acting Chair.

Attendees

Bozrah: Scott Soderberg
Montville: Bill Wrobel, Kate Johnson, Mike Magliano
Salem: Bob Neddo, Chris Rios

Excused: Henry Granger, Suzanne Bennett

Guests in attendance: Mike Lambert, DEEP Bureau Chief of Outdoor Recreation; Scott Dawley, DEEP Parks; John Hine, DEEP Gillette Castle; Val Hornat, Michael Socha, Barbara Magliano; Gary Grenier.

In Memory of Jim McArdle

Funeral services were held for long-time GLA member Jim McArdle who passed away on August 22. GLA members took up a personal collection in Jim's memory for the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network, a charity of choice for Jim's family. Jim will be greatly missed, and his contributions to the wellbeing of Gardner Lake will be long remembered.

Minutes

The minutes of the September 12, 2019 meeting were presented. Bill Wrobel made a motion to accept the July minutes; seconded by Mike Magliano. The motion was unanimously accepted.

Attachments

- Treasurer's Report through 8/16/2019.
- Client Monitoring Field Data Sheet 8/18/2019.

Administration, Correspondence & Communication

- **Client Monitoring Field Data Sheet:** Dated 8/18/2019.
- **2019-20 Drawdown Letter:** Dated 9/9/2018, sent to Robert Hannon, DEEP, requesting a 3-4 foot drawdown for the upcoming season, approved by the three chief town officials and GLA Chair Henry Granger. The request was sent certified, signature requested.
- **Ecosystem Consulting Service, Inc. 2020 Proposal:** Dated 9/27/2019 in the amount of \$8,600. This is an increase of \$1,550 over last year's contract. A vote to approve was tabled until we can speak with Dr. Kortmann at the October meeting to learn more about the increase. It is noted that there were no price changes from 2018 to 2019.
- **Invoice to Ecosystem Consulting Service, Inc.:** Dated 9/3/2019, in the amount of \$3,145.71. There were additional non-budgeted expenses for analysis, requested by GLA (totaling \$785), for review of green algae found in the north end of the lake (utilizing funds from unused line items). Chris Rios made a motion to approve payment of the invoice; seconded by Bill Wrobel. The motion was unanimously approved.
- **CT Federation of Lakes Forum:** A statewide forum will be held at the CT Agricultural Experiment Station in New Haven on Saturday, September 21. Anyone interested in carpooling should contact Kate.

Discussion with DEEP Representatives

- Mike Lambert reported that there are 117 boat launches in the state that they are responsible for. EnCon officers were at Gardner Lake's state beach and boat launch early in the morning on the 4th of July along with Scott Dawley's staff. Statewide, park usage was up by 10% this year. There were 111 state park closures due to full capacity this summer. Five of those closures occurred at Gardner Lake. CT residents are now able to enter all CT state parks through funding from the Passport for Parks program. Concerns were raised about out of state cars filling parks. Mike Lambert will check on the property acquisition documents for Gardner Lake State Park & Boat Launch to learn more about any possible federal funding restrictions on charging out of state cars.
- Other topics discussed included:
 - **Jet Skis** : Cyrstal Lake in Ellington has banned jet skis. This would be difficult on Gardner Lake as residents and campers own and use them. There was consideration given to limiting jet ski hours.
 - **90-Day Alcohol Ban**: At the last legislative session there was approval to make the 90-day alcohol ban at the state beach permanent. The approval was forwarded for final justification & approval.
 - **Tents and Canopies on State Beach**: The *Friends of Gardner Lake* have submitted a letter to the State, including Commissioner Dykes, raising concerns about the visibility and safety of swimmers with the canopies and tents set up on the beach.
 - **Annual Drawdown**: Has been helping to manage shoreline weeds.
 - **Fishing Tournaments**: It was reported that possibly no more that 50% of boat trailer parking can be taken up by fishing tournaments. Bill Foreman is still the contact for fishing tournaments. It was noted that no one is allowed off their boats during a tournament, and sometimes these tournaments can be eight hours long. The question arose about what the anglers are doing for bathroom breaks.
 - **Beach Closures**: Concerns were raised about previous announcements that Gardner Lake was closed for swimming due to bacteria, when in fact it was just the state beach. This has an adverse effect on campers planning to use the campgrounds around the lake. Mike Lambert acknowledged that the announcements need to be more specific in the future.
 - **Beach Erosion**: Several years ago the State channeled hillside stormwater runoff to the side of the beach to assist in erosion control of the sandy portion of the beach.
 - **Fire Hydrant at Boat Launch**: Salem's dry hydrant at the state boat launch has been inoperable for several years now.

Treasurer's Report

Presented by Scott Soderberg. Bob Neddo made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report; seconded by Mike Magliano. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Business

- A) **Law Enforcement Patrol**: GLA will request the invoice for this year's DEEP patrol prior to the November meeting and the 2020 budget preparation.
- B) **Boating**: The Boater Safety Course has been completed for this season. Forty nine people took the course this year.
- C) **Water Quality Sampling**: Scott reported that based on this year's preliminary survey, the lake is in good condition and that fanwort appears to have declined. Under normal conditions, Scott collects samples once a month, which are sent to UConn for lab analysis. Dr. Kortmann will be presenting his 2019 survey results at the October meeting in Montville.

Old Business

- **GLA Vacancy**: There is a GLA vacancy for Bozrah.
- **Oxoboxo Dam**: According to Montville Mayor Ron McDaniel, the State is again reviewing a permit application for dam repair at Oxoboxo Lake. He will notify us of any updates that he receives.

New Business None.

Public Comment

Following are the comments and concerns made by guests in attendance:

- **Laurel Lock Campground:** Val Hornat spoke about several issues concerning Laurel Lock Campground and Gardner Lake in general. It was reported to her that weeds seem to be worse this year, jet skis have been circling boats, fishing tournament anglers continue to fish around private property, she inquired about a slip for the DEEP patrol boat (there are several locations available to DEEP), with the number of geese - should the State consider lifting hunting protections (in part to protect the water quality of nearby wells), and pesticides and road chemicals running into the lake are presenting risks to the water.
- **Dam Opening Size:** There has been much speculation if the size of the dam opening was reduced when the new gate was installed in 2017. Michael Socha reported that in November the dam was only partially opened and that it was opened to full capacity in December. Concerns have been brought to GLA that the State may be regulating water levels to accommodate fishing tournaments, and putting the lake at certain risk(s). This year the dam opening is requested by October 15 and to a level of 3-4 feet. Weed growth at the north end of the lake is heavier this year, and fanwort is present. Michael thanked DEEP, GLA and the two selectman and mayor for efforts in Gardner Lake management. He also emphasized how dangerous jet skis have become.
- **DEEP Patrols:** Gary Grenier inquired about patrols starting sooner next season for an early presence of enforcement, and also if DEEP has training programs for patrol.

Next Meeting Date

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, October 10, 2019 at the Montville Public Safety Building at 7:00 pm.

Adjournment

Mike Magliano made a motion to adjourn at 9:20 p.m.; seconded by Chris Rios. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Kate Johnson,
Secretary