

GARDNER LAKE AUTHORITY

270 Hartford Road

Salem, CT 06240

Meeting Minutes of October 10, 2019

Montville Public Safety Building

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Kate Johnson, Acting Chair.

Attendees

Bozrah: Scott Soderberg

Montville: Bill Wrobel, Kate Johnson

Salem: Bob Neddo, Chris Rios

Excused: Henry Granger, Mike Magliano, Suzanne Bennett

Guests in attendance: State Representative Kathleen McCarty, State Representative Kevin Ryan, Bill Schultz, Sue Coffee, John Hummel, Gary Grenier and Val Hornat

Ecosystem Consulting Service, Inc. Presentation

Dr. Robert Kortmann, owner of Ecosystem Consulting Service, Inc. presented the 2019 Aquatic Macrophyte Survey & Limnological Monitoring Results. In early spring an alga bloom in the north end of the lake by the tributaries was reported. Early season samples were collected and sent to Ecosystem for analysis. The samples were identified as green alga, which is not an uncommon alga to see in lakes early in the season. The question was raised if this was perhaps due to the high precipitation levels during the drawdown that kept lake levels higher than normal, but no clear determination was made.

Dr. Kortmann's survey was conducted at the end of July/early August. He reported that fanwort became present in Gardner Lake around 2005-2006. It is still present but does not produce a nuisance condition, and has not hindered the native plants growing in the lake. There is a small presence of phragmites on the southeastern shoreline and fanwort fragments were found near Sucker Brook on the northwestern shoreline. Additionally by Sucker Brook, a native pondweed colony appeared.

The standard depth for dissolved oxygen readings and turbidity is six meters, and is taken at the deep hole at the northern side of the island. Sampling results indicated that the water between the surface and six meters is well mixed by the wind, and has maintained good clarity.

A pigment connected to cyanobacteria, phycocyanin, is present in the lake. This can be a normal occurrence, and is good to keep an eye on, but is not alarming.

Higher phosphorous and nitrogen levels were present at collection site #1 at the southeastern end of the lake. Another area to keep an eye on is collection site #5 at the north end of the lake. Wetland soils draining into the lake are depositing phosphorous, nitrogen and ammonia.

Dr. Kortmann recommends expanding the volunteer Client Co-op Monitoring Program to include phytoplankton grab samples, with 3-4 samples to be collected in a season, beginning in April. With climate variability, lakes in CT are losing phytoplankton levels. He also recommended that volunteer monitoring could start earlier, ideally 3-4 weeks after final ice is out in order to check the phosphorous count at that point. Dr. Kortmann will send a revised 2020 monitoring contract with amendments as discussed.

State Representative Kathleen McCarty spoke of state legislators' awareness of issues that occurred this past season, and noted that they are well informed and ready to be of support at the State level. Kathleen spoke

about the hazards of PFAS fire foam getting into waterbodies, and listened to citizen concerns about the threat of road salt getting into Gardner Lake and other local waters near CT roads.

Minutes

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

Attachments

- Treasurer's Report through 9/17/2019.
- Client Monitoring Field Data Sheet 9/13/2019.

Administration, Correspondence & Communication

- **Press Release:** Sent to Norwich Bulletin and New London Day announcing tonight's meeting and guest speaker Dr. Robert Kortmann. The Day requests a 2-week lead time for press releases. The press release was also sent to *Friends of Gardner Lake* Facebook page.
- **Client Monitoring Field Data Sheet:** Dated 9/13/2019.
- **2018-19 Drawdown Invoice:** Dated 9/18/2019, in the amount of \$2,094.91. Approval was tabled until a review of dates could be conducted.
- **Montville Yearly Reminders:** Dated 9/27/19, was received from Montville Town Clerk Katie Sandberg.
- **Email Letter to DEEP Regarding 2018-19 Drawdown:** Dated 10/10/19, to Mike Lambert, Bureau Chief of Outdoor Recreation; Jack Hine and Scott Dawley, both with DEEP Parks, inquiring about the levels of the dam gate openings last season.
- **CFL Fall Forum:** Scott and Kate attended the forum on Saturday, September 21 at the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station in New Haven. The forum focused on invasive plant controls in CT lakes.

Treasurer's Report

Scott Soderberg presented the October Treasurer's Report (August 17, 2019 to September 17, 2019). Bill Wrobel made a motion to approve the October Treasurer's Report; seconded by Chris Rios. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Business

- Law Enforcement Patrol:** GLA will need the patrol stats from August 2 to Labor Day to include in the 2019 GLA Annual Report. Bill Wrobel spoke with Lt. Dave Radford about ongoing water patrol training.
- Boating:** Completed for the season.
- Water Quality Sampling:** Scott reported that there is one more Client Co-op sampling to be collected in October to complete the season's testing. Scott freezes collected samples and arranges to meet with an Ecosystem staff member in Groton to send samples to Dr. Kortmann – to save on shipping/transportation costs.

Old Business

- **Oxoboxo Dam Repair:** There is no new update aside from a permit application being currently under review.

New Business None.

Public Comment

Sue Coffee: Sue expressed concern about the large number of fishing tournaments and negligence of lake rules by anglers coming in via the boat launch.

Next Meeting Date

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, November 14, 2019 at the Salem Town Hall at 7:00 pm.

Adjournment

Scott Soderberg made a motion to adjourn at 9:04 p.m.; seconded by Chris Rios. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kate Johnson".

Kate Johnson,
Secretary