

GARDNER LAKE AUTHORITY

270 Hartford Road
Salem, CT 06240

Meeting Minutes of June 9, 2022
Maples Farm, Bozrah

The meeting was called to order at 7:14 p.m. by Chris Rios, Acting Chair
(Due to a faulty door key, the meeting was held outdoors at the picnic tables.)

Attendees

Bozrah: Henry Granger, Scott Soderberg
Montville: Bill Wrobel, Kate Johnson
Salem: Chris Rios, Tony Lasaracina, Jim Miller

Excused: Mike Magliano

Guests: Major Brian Newman, DEEP; Captain Vinny Mazzotta, DEEP; Kevin Ryan, CT State Representative; Bob Johnson, Jonathan Plant, Julie Haines, Len Johnson, Tammy Johnston, Meika Gallup, Melissa Beers, Gary Grenier, Monica McIntyre, Michael Smith, John Hummel, Jim McIntyre, Sue Coffee.

A quorum was noted.

DEEP Patrol

Major Newman and Capt. Mazzotta from DEEP EnCon (Environmental Conservation) answered questions and addressed concerns about boating. Capt. Mazzotta spoke about DEEP's coverage area across the state, noting they have only six officers in our eastern boating area. Major Newman's department began an initiative last year that included an initial educational component to offenders. Now that many of the boaters and jet skiers are aware of DEEP's presence and the rules at Gardner Lake, enforcement of those rules will be the next step. Concerns focused on fishing tournaments; the spread of invasive aquatic plants from boats being brought into Gardner Lake; and docking issues at Gardner Lake Heights. DEEP will provide patrol reports specific to Gardner Lake by request, which GLA will request on a monthly basis.

Minutes

The minutes of the May 12, 2022 meeting were presented for approval. Chris Rios made a motion to approve the minutes as presented; seconded by Tony Lasaracina. The motion passed unanimously.

Attachments

- Treasurer's Report from 4/16/2022 to 5/17/2022.
- Client Field Monitoring Sheet, dated 5/24/22.

Correspondence & Communication

- **Client Monitoring Field Data Sheet:** Dated 5/24/2022.
- **DEEP 2022 Patrol Contract:** Running from May 27 through September 6.
- **Emails from Mary Morgillo, State of CT:** Dated 5/19/22 and 5/27/22, providing DEEP's "estimated" patrol rate of \$139.79/hour which includes officer salary and fringe rate. No additional administration fee is added.
- **Email from DEEP's Capt. Mazzotta:** Dated 5/23/22, confirming that DEEP is planning to dedicate a minimum of six hours per week of coverage at Gardner Lake through the contract period, with consideration of weather conditions, and patrolling the fishing tournaments.
- **Email from Mike Lambert, DEEP Bureau Chief of Outdoor Recreation:** Dated 6/7/22, noting that Fisheries staff is reviewing tournament complaints from Sunday morning, 6/5/22, when two boats disregarded the speed limit at 6:00 am at the start of the first of two tournaments scheduled before 8:00 am that day.
- **Email received from John Hummel to DEEP (cc'd to GLA):** Dated 6/7/2022, pertaining to the tournament violations on 6/5/22, noting that no enforcement was taken against the violators. A

second issue was reported concerning aquatic plants found on several of the boat trailers on that same day, raising the concern that some tournament participants may be uneducated to the harm that can come from the transportation of weeds from waterbody to waterbody.

- **Email to Mike Lambert:** Dated 6/7/22, discussing GLA's desire to work with our legislators to return to three foot drawdowns during the appropriate time frame, which are documented to provide management of Gardner Lake's invasive plant populations.

Treasurer's Report

Scott Soderberg presented the June Treasurer's Report (April 16, 2022 to May 17, 2022) for approval. Bill Wrobel made a motion to approve the report as presented; seconded by Chris Rios. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Business

- **Law Enforcement Patrol:** After comparing rates between Montville and DEEP Patrols, a vote by hand was taken to select which of the two contracts to approve. The vote was unanimous in DEEP's favor.
- **Water Quality Sampling:** Scott submitted his water data and storm samples taken on 6/9/22. Dr. Kortmann replied to Scott that this year's data for water quality looks good. Scott reported that there are some algae around now. At the southern end of the lake the aquatic plants are proliferating, with more milfoil being detected than in the past. Scott will follow up on the installation of Gardner's new mini-dot real-time recording device. He also sent an email to Ben Burpee, GZA, inquiring about Asian clams which are spreading through CT waterbodies and appear to be the small clams being found at Gardner Lake.

Old Business

Kate requested authorization to continue researching **Public Act 21-12, Section 1. Section 22a-339h** of CT state statutes [dated on or before November 1, [2006] 2021, establishing and defining annual drawdown levels and dates between CT DEEP and the Town of Middlefield & the Lake Beseck Association] to see if Gardner Lake drawdowns might be put into law. Chris Rios made a motion to authorize Kate Johnson to proceed with research and reaching out to the legislators of Bozrah, Montville and Salem; seconded by Scott Soderberg. The motion passed unanimously. The following drawdown data was discussed: opening the dam gate by October 15, a **drawdown of three feet** to be achieved no later than Thanksgiving to allow the lake's aquatic wildlife to adapt prior to freezing temperatures and maintained until a dam gate closing on March 1.

New Business

GLA will request monthly patrol reports at the start of each month during the patrol season.

Public Comment

Sue Coffee spoke about the invasive plants and Asian clams at Rogers Lake, and the effort and expense involved dealing with them.

Next Meeting Date

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, July 14, 2022 at the Montville Public Safety Building, beginning at 7:00 pm.

Adjournment

Chris Rios made a motion to adjourn at 8:27 pm; seconded by Tony Lasaracina. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Kate Johnson,
Secretary