

GARDNER LAKE AUTHORITY

270 Hartford Road
Salem, CT 06240

Meeting Minutes of April 14, 2022
Montville Public Safety Building

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Attendees

Bozrah: Henry Granger, Scott Soderberg
Montville: Kate Johnson, Mike Magliano
Salem: Chris Rios, Jim Miller

Excused: Tony Lasaracina, Bill Wrobel

Guests: Major Brian Newman, CT DEEP; Sergeant Karen Reilly, CT DEEP; Sue Coffee, Barbara Magliano and Valerie Gagnier

A quorum was noted.

Election of Officers

Tabled until May

DEEP Patrol Presentation

Major Brian Newman introduced Sergeant Karen Reilly who will be working with Maj. Newman on Gardner Lake if DEEP is awarded the 2022 patrol contract. They spoke about how conditions are improved compared to five or six years ago. They also spoke about the significant loss of state employees this year and over the next couple of months. New people are coming in and learning new jobs, so there will be a learning curve. Maj. Newman continues to promote good communications and believes that much can be accomplished, and problems resolved early on, through good communications. Captain Vinny Mazzotta is still with EnCon.

There was discussion about jet skis on the lake, and concern over rising horsepower and speed, and the threat this poses. Hiring is under way for staffing Boating Education Assistance (BEAs) which will help to monitor boats going into CT waterbodies. DEEP would monitor fishing tournament(s) as part of the patrol contract.

Concerns from the public included: tents on the state beach blocking the visibility of watching children swimming in the water; charging boats coming into the tournaments to help fund a lifeguard at the beach; and boat launch congestion caused by fishing tournaments at start and finish times.

Due to retirements, enforcement is expected to be reduced by approximately 30 percent. This creates the possibility of closing some parks due to staffing shortages.

Major Newman and Sargent Reilly concluded by saying they are available and encourage GLA to reach out to them as needed.

Minutes

The minutes of the March 10, 2022 meeting were presented for approval. Chris Rios made a motion to approve the minutes as presented; seconded by Scott Soderberg. The motion passed unanimously.

Attachments

- Treasurer's Report from 2/18/2022 to 3/17/2022.

Correspondence & Communication

- **Letter from Lt. David Radford, Montville Police:** Dated 3/29/2022, providing a rate proposal for the 2022 patrol contract.

- **Letter from GLA to Bill Foreman, DEEP Fisheries:** Dated 4/1/2022, offering public comment for proposed changes in CT Inland Sport Fishing Regulations. Two major concerns included:
 - What impact the extended fishing season, along with its tournaments, would have on the drawdown, and
 - at Gardner Lake, as well as all lakes in CT with recurring fishing tournaments, is the threat of boats and trailers carrying fragments of invasive plants from one waterbody to another.
- **Email from Bill Foreman, DEEP:** Dated 4/4/2022, acknowledging receipt of GLA's letter and clarification that the elimination of closed season for trout was mandated by an act of the state legislature, and not DEEP Fisheries.

Treasurer's Report

Scott Soderberg presented the April Treasurer's Report (February 18, 2022 to March 17, 2022) for approval. Kate Johnson made a motion to approve the report; seconded by Chris Rios. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Business

- **Law Enforcement Patrol:** Covered above.
- **Water Quality Sampling:** Scott will begin sampling in April.

Old Business – Bob Neddo met with Jack Hine from DEEP's Gillette Castle office to share history of Gardner Lake's dam management.

New Business – None.

Other Business – GLA will check on a Public Act where a lake in CT is reported to have created regulation with the State on that lake's drawdown; and will report back.

Public Comment – Sue Coffee spoke about the absolute need to be pro-active checking boats to prevent them bringing hydrilla and other invasive plants into Gardner Lake. The severity of hydrilla in the CT River raises concerns about the State's responsibility for checking fishing tournament boats that travel from waterbody to waterbody, and especially traveling from the CT River where hydrilla is choking parts of the river, to be sure they are not transporting aquatic invasive plants.

Next Meeting Date

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, May 12, 2022 at the Salem Town Hall at 7:00 pm.

Adjournment

Chris Rios made a motion to adjourn at 8:58 p.m.; seconded by Mike Magliano. The motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,



Kate Johnson,
Secretary