

GARDNER LAKE AUTHORITY
270 Hartford Road
Salem, CT 06240

Meeting Minutes of October 8, 2020
Montville Public Safety Building
(Covid-19 Guidelines in Place)

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Henry Granger, Chair.

Attendees

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

A quorum was noted.

Guests: Barbara Magliano and Val Hornat

Ecosystem Consulting Service, Inc. Presentation

Dr. Robert Kortmann reported that overall Gardner Lake is in good health, but noted that this year displayed some unusual characteristics. It was a mild winter with approximately three ice-overs, followed by an early ice-out.

In the spring there was filamentous green algae present, which is denser and below the surface of the water early on in its cycle. By June it becomes more buoyant and rises to the surface. It is not normally a nuisance algae, and dissipates by summer. It is naturally occurring, with Dr. Kortmann receiving more calls on green algae from around the state this year. Additionally, in June, a suspected algae growth turned out to be pine pollen in the water.

Transparency was very good this year, going an additional meter deeper this season. Transparency went from three to four meters.

Invasive fanwort was located in four locations around the lake, and is not interfering with recreation. The annual drawdowns continue to kill it off around shorelines. Dr. Kortmann noted that there was less fanwort found this year. Additional [invasive] phragmites were found but do not pose a concern at this time.

Phosphorus levels were good this year, but nitrate levels were slightly higher in the deep hole. This condition allowed for Oscillatoria to grow within the deep hole, a form of cyanobacteria, but the density was low.

This year's fish kill in late May-early June was a result of a naturally occurring event known as post reproductive die-off. While spawning has been initiated, generally of a single species, significant energy is expended, resulting in the die-off when the water temperatures reach around 8-10°C.

Dr. Kortmann again reinforced the importance of monitoring the dissolved oxygen levels, keeping a close watch that levels should not ascend the deep hole out into the main waterbody. Water quality levels set approximately fifteen years ago have been met this year, despite the unusual characteristics that were present.

Minutes

The minutes of the September 10, 2020 meeting were presented for approval. Chris Rios made a motion to approve the minutes as presented; seconded by Bill Wrobel. The motion passed unanimously.

Attachments

- Treasurer's Report from 8/18/2020 through 9/17/2020

Correspondence & Communication

- **2020 Bozrah Payment:** Received in the amount of \$2,445, payment in full.
- **Swim Marker Permit Application for B. Grisafe:** Dated 9/16/2020. Approval was tabled to allow for review of the proposed swim marker area.
- **U.S. Plastic Corp. Invoice:** Dated 9/14/2020, for sampling bottles in the amount of \$72.35, reimbursable to Scott Soderberg. Kate Johnson made a motion to approve payment; seconded by Mike Magliano. The motion passed unanimously. Scott noted that he changed to a different company offering better shipping rates.
- **Ecosystem Consulting Service Invoice #2:** Dated 10/1/2020, in the amount of \$3,861.67. Bill Wrobel made a motion to approve the invoice for payment; seconded by Kate Johnson. The motion passed unanimously.
- **UConn CESE Invoice:** Dated 9/24/2020, for sampling lab analysis in the amount of \$328.52. Chris Rios made a motion to approve payment; seconded by Tony Lasaracina. The motion passed unanimously.
- **DEEP 2020-2021 Drawdown Invoice:** Dated 9/21/2020, in the amount of \$1,670.55. Approval was tabled until we receive the breakdown of hours.

Treasurer's Report

Scott Soderberg presented the October Treasurer's Report (August 18, 2020 to September 17, 2020) for approval. Bob Neddo made a motion to approve the report; seconded by Bill Wrobel. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Business

- Law Enforcement Patrol:** We will request a breakdown of hours with DEEP's patrol invoice. There was discussion about DEEP's limited presence on the lake this year. Henry reported that Captain Lunden, who has been heading the patrol, retired this year.
- Boating:** No report – season concluded.
- Water Quality Sampling:** Scott Soderberg reported that he will be taking samples one more time for the season. GLA will check with Dr. Kortmann for a proposal for the 2021 season.

Old Business

- **DEEP Drawdown Request:** GLA is still awaiting confirmation of the 2020-2021 drawdown.

New Business – None.

Other Business

- **Dam Clearing:** DEEP recently mowed and cleared the bank between the dam gate and the culvert under Lake Road.
- **Jet Ski Quiet Time:** In conversation with DEEP regarding jet ski issues, Henry learned that Columbia Lake has a "quiet time" for jet skis which limits the number of hours jet skis can be operated. One concern about establishing a jet ski "quiet time" is the need for enforcement.

Public Comment

Val Hornat spoke on the history of drawdowns that she shared with someone questioning the practice. Val also noted that there was a single change in the collective ownership of Laurel Lock, inquiring if

the swim markers would need to be re-applied for. By consensus, it was determined that there was not a change in the overall ownership of Laurel Lock. Therefore, it should not require a new application. Val also spoke about one buoy marker at Laurel Lock that broke away and was replaced for \$300+. She will check with DEEP at Old Lyme to learn about replacing the marker number on the new buoy.

Next Meeting Date

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, November 12, 2020 at the Salem Town Hall, or at a location in Salem to be determined in accordance with covid guidelines, at 7:00 pm.

Adjournment

Chris Rios made a motion to adjourn at 8:35 p.m.; seconded by Mike Magliano. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Kate Johnson,
Secretary