

GARDNER LAKE AUTHORITY

270 Hartford Road
Salem, CT 06240

Meeting Minutes of March 11, 2021
Bozrah Senior Center

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 p.m.

Attendees

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

Excused: Tony Lasaracina, Mike Magliano

A quorum was noted.

Guests: Montville Police Lieutenant David Radford, Montville Administrative Sargent Matt Northrop, Sue Coffee.

Election of Officers

The following slate of officer nominations was presented:

Chair: Henry Granger
Co-Chair: Chris Rios
Treasurer: Scott Soderberg
Secretary: Kate Johnson

With no other nominations, the Secretary was directed to cast one vote to accept the slate of officers.

Montville Patrol Report

Lieutenant David Radford and Administrative Sgt. Matt Northrop spoke with members about the upcoming season, noting that officers have been trained, and look forward to future discussion. Rates and contractual matters were reviewed.

Minutes

The minutes of the November 19, 2020 meeting were presented for approval. Bill Wrobel made a motion to approve the minutes as presented; seconded by Bob Chris Rios. The motion passed unanimously.

Attachments

- Treasurer's Report through 12/31/2020
- Treasurer's Report from 1/1/2021 through 2/17/2021

Correspondence & Communication

- **Montville Patrol Rates for the 2021 Season:** Provided by Lt. David Radford, Montville Police Dept.
- **DEEP Patrol Phone Call:** From Sgt. Chris Dwyer inquiring about the 2021 season.
- **Aquatic Invasive Species Grant (AIS): Letter of Support by Towns and GLA:** Dated 2/10/21. A letter signed by the GLA Chair and the chief town officials of Bozrah, Montville and Salem was submitted to DEEP, providing support to the Eastern CT Conservation District's AIS grant application for a proposed project at Gardner Lake.
- **AIS Grant Application:** Dated 2/12/21. A grant application was submitted by the Eastern CT Conservation District to develop an outreach initiative for harmful algae blooms (HABs) at Gardner Lake.
- **State Senator Cathy Osten – Letter of Support:** Dated 2/22/21. Senator Osten sent a letter to DEEP Commissioner Katie Dykes in support of ECCD's AIS grant application.
- **State Representative Kevin Ryan – Letter of Support:** Received 3/3/21. Representative Ryan sent a letter to Madeline Ortiz, DEEP, in support of ECCD's AIS grant application.

- **Email to Jack Hine, DEEP:** Dated 2/22/21. An inquiry was sent regarding the early dam gate closing and concerns about the thick layer of ice still on the lake at the time of early closing.
- **Email from Jack Hine:** Dated 2/22/21. The regular dam maintainer passed away, so the new maintainer is gauging the closing based on the rate it took to drain the lake, with the goal being lake levels returning to normal by the second Saturday in April.
- **Email to Jack Hine and Chuck Lee, DEEP:** Dated 2/22/21. GLA expressed concerns to Jack and Chuck over the risk of shoreline erosion and damage with the early dam gate closing and the role that the drawdown plays with control of Gardner Lake's two invasive plants, fanwort and milfoil. Additionally, a later closing supports reduced flooding downstream during the spring rainy season.
- **Email from Chuck Lee:** Dated 2/22/21. Chuck noted that runoff and snow melt was needed to assure refill by April 1st for the prevention of vegetation in areas of the lake that are normally too deep for plants to grow.
- **Dam Closing Dates:** Bob Neddo has been recording dam closings for many years. Closing dates ranging from 2010-2021 were shared with members, occurring primarily in the month of March.
- **Email to Mike Payton, DEEP:** Dated 3/6/2021. Mike was informed of erosion of a section of the kayak ramp at the boat launch. It was noted that it would be easier for DEEP to repair the damaged section soon, as the water levels are rising.
- **Email from Mike Payton:** Dated 3/8/21. Mike believes the ramp was crushed, not eroded, and will look into repairs.
- **State of CT Executive Order No. 10B, signed by Governor Lamont:** Received 3/5/21. The order is titled "Protection of Public Health and Safety During Covid-19 Pandemic – Early Opening of Fishing Season." Governor Lamont signed the order opening CT's fishing season early as an approved covid recreation. Closed seasons have been removed.
- **Press Release on Executive Order No. 10B:** Dated 3/4/2021. The release was titled "Governor Lamont Signs Order Opening Connecticut's Fishing Season Early - *Trout Fishing Season Opening Early to Encourage Social Distancing, Anglers Reminded to Exercise Caution if Fishing on Late-Season Ice.*"
- **Phone Conversation with Ivonne Hall, DEEP:** Ivonne is DEEP's Dam Safety Engineering Supervisor, and works primarily with dam structure and safety.
- **Revised Timeline:** The revised task timeline was provided to members.
- **Invoice from Kate Johnson:** Kate submitted an invoice for reimbursement in the amount of \$138.24 for printer toner. Scott Soderberg made a motion to approve payment; seconded by Bill Wrobel. The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Scott Soderberg presented the following reports for approval:

- 1) Oct. 17, 2020 – Nov. 17, 2020 Treasurer's Report;
- 2) Nov. 18, 2020 – Dec. 15, 2020 Treasurer's Report;
- 3) Dec. 18, 2020 – Jan. 15, 2021 Treasurer's Report;
- 4) Jan. 16, 2021 – Feb. 17, 2021 Treasurer's Report.

Chris Rios made a motion to approve the four reports; seconded by Bob Neddo. The motion passed unanimously. A final 2020 invoice in the amount of \$24 for checks was presented. Kate Johnson made a motion to approve payment; seconded by Bill Wrobel. The motion passed unanimously. Scott noted that we are still awaiting a 2020 invoice in the amount of \$413.44 (pre-approved on 11/19/2020 for year-end purposes) from UConn's CESE for their final lab analysis of the 2020 season.

Committee Business

- **Law Enforcement Patrol:** Montville has submitted their rates. DEEP Sgt. Chris Dwyer is planning to attend the April meeting. When Montville's and DEEP's rates and availability have been reviewed, a patrol contract will be selected. Both entities add on an administrative charge, sometimes in excess of the actual rate.
- **Boating:** Courses are now online.
- **Water Quality Sampling:** Upcoming. We will check with Dr. Kortmann about getting his annual reports from recent years.

Old Business – None.

New Business

- **AIS Grant:** As of March 10, ECCD has not heard any word on grant awards.
- **Dam:** Since the current dam gate was installed, there is concern about the valve not being open completely. The dam seems to drain slower, but there has also been discussion that precipitation levels have been higher in recent years. We will contact CFL to learn if they have recommendations on working with DEEP to better assist us with our drawdowns.

Other Business – None.

Public Comment

- **Sue Coffee:** Sue expressed concern about boats from other water bodies coming to Gardner Lake with invasive weeds, and emphasized the need to have someone at the boat launch checking for weeds on incoming boats

Next Meeting Date

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, April 8, 2021 at the Montville Public Safety Building at 7:00 pm.

Adjournment

Chris Rios made a motion to adjourn at 8:55 p.m.; seconded by Scott Soderberg. The motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,



Kate Johnson,
Secretary