

GARDNER LAKE AUTHORITY

270 Hartford Road
Salem, CT 06240

Meeting Minutes of July 11, 2019
Montville Public Safety Building

The meeting was called to order at 7:12 p.m.

Attendees

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

A quorum was noted.

Guests: Twenty two guests present.

Minutes

The minutes of the June 13, 2019 meeting were presented for approval. Mike Magliano made a motion to approve the minutes as presented; seconded by Bill Wrobel. The motion passed unanimously.

Attachments

- Treasurer's Report through 6/17/2019
- Client Monitoring Field Data Sheet 6/23/2019

Administration, Correspondence & Communication

- **Client Monitoring Field Data Sheet**, Dated 6/23/2019.
- **2019 Invoice to the Towns**: The 2019 town request invoices were sent.
- **DEEP Patrol Contract**: The [initial] DEEP Patrol contract has been received in the amount of \$4,000, a decrease from the budgeted \$12,000 due to Salem's reduced allocation and a \$2,000 reserve for possible algae growth.
- **Letter from Salem First Selectman Kevin Lyden**: Dated 7/9/19, as published in the Salem CT News regarding overcrowding at the State Beach.
- **Letter from Salem First Selectman Kevin Lyden to CT DEEP Commissioner Katie Dykes**: Dated 7/9/19, addressing the overcrowding issues on July 4, and requesting restricted access when the state park has reached maximum parking capacity.
- **Letter from Lexi Tavares and Sue Coffee**: Dated 7/9/19, to concerned citizens and organizations regarding eight issues that they are seeking resolution on.
- **Payment Received from Salem**: In the full requested amount of \$13,959 for the 2019 season; an increase from the original allocation.
- **Invoice from UConn CESE**: Dated 6/24/19, in the amount of \$291.05 for water quality lab analysis. Kate Johnson made a motion to approve payment; seconded by Mike Magliano. The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Scott Soderberg presented the June Treasurer's Report (5/16/19 – 6/17/19) for approval. Bill Wrobel made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented; seconded by Bob Neddo. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Business

- A) **Law Enforcement Patrol:** Gardner Lake State Park was closed on July 4 at 7:45 a.m., as it was filled to capacity. There were problems early in the morning, beginning around 6:00 a.m. with jet skis racing across the lake. Nearly all of the fifty four trailer parking spaces at the two boat launch parking areas were taken with jet ski trailers prior to the closing at 7:45. Many of the jet skiers claimed they were unaware of the 6 mph speed limit from sunset to 8:00 a.m. DEEP Encon officers were on site early in the morning, in addition to Salem's two resident troopers. Also, DEEP Water Patrol began that day. Cars parked illegally were towed by seven of the eight tow companies that were called in.
- B) **Boating:** Bob Neddo reported that the Boater Safety class was underway, and that 49 people signed up.
- C) **Water Quality Sampling:** Scott Soderberg collected a sample of the green algae by Sucker Brook (northwest corner of the lake) and sent it to Dr. Kortmann for microscopic analysis, but has not heard back yet.

Old Business

- **Swim Marker Request from Lou Allen:** The requested maps were submitted and the Chair has signed off on the permit.

New Business

- **Salem Board of Selectman's Special Meeting:** Was held on Wednesday, July 10. State Park and Boat Launch issues from July 4 were discussed, along with the First Selectman's letters to the townspeople and to DEEP Commissioner Katie Dykes. Kevin Lyden spoke about overcrowding, and reached out to Lakeview Drive residents about options to put up *No Parking – Tow Zone* signs. The chief town official is the designee to partition the State to install road signs.
- **DEEP Patrol Contract:** With the full commitment from Salem, Kate Johnson made a motion to increase the DEEP Patrol Contract from \$4,000 to \$12,000, an increase of \$8,000 (as budgeted); seconded by Bill Wrobel. The motion passed unanimously. Henry Granger will send a revised contract to DEEP.

Other Business None.

Public Comment

As a result of all the problems that occurred on the 4th of July, local residents were given an opportunity to share their concerns. The three areas that GLA works with the towns on are boating enforcement, controlling algae & aquatic weeds and water quality management. However, these efforts are limited by funding and environmental conditions. *The bulleted items below do not necessarily reflect the beliefs of the Gardner Lake Authority, nor fall within its mission.*

Please note that the State Beach and Boat Launch are managed by the State of Connecticut.

The following concerns were voiced:

- Dock damage from winter water levels, dam gate opening and flow from the dam.
- Drawdown kills the shoreline invasives, erosion brings nutrients in.
- The 4th of July was unsafe, jet skis were erratic and jumping waves behind boats.
- Porta pottys by the boat launch are dangerous for kids and beach goers. Since the 4th, the State brought in two more porta pottys, and more are expected.
- Since the 4th, the swim area has been extended to include the whole beach area.
- The alcohol ban has been good. Tow companies should be notified as early as possible when parking becomes an issue. DEEP should check for any possible blockage at the dam gate.
- Tax payers around the lake should become educated on activities that could lower their property values.
- Need to push for repair of dry hydrant at boat launch.

- Need to strategically plan to correct safety issues including: porta pottys, property values, need to rebuild reputation about presence of enforcement.
- If the State is unable to manage the park, close it until it can be made safe.
- A response from DEEP Deputy Commissioner Susan Whalen is expected regarding a letter that was sent on July 9.
- There has been a significant increase in cars coming from Massachusetts.
- Need to change the location of porta pottys.
- The number of pop-up shade tents on the beach causes a hazard for visibility of swimmers in the swim area.
- Waiting for a disaster to occur before corrective changes take place is not the answer. No lifeguards.
- Need for collective efforts to enforce rules, including legislative representation.
- Resident purchased property for serenity – which no longer exists, would like to help restore safety.
- One visitor to the lake became aggressive with a nearby property owner and needed to be restrained by the group she was traveling with.
- Need for No Parking signs on Lakeview Drive, Route 354 and enforcing the “Carry In, Carry Out” park policy.
- Need for better enforcement for parking at trailer spaces – a DEEP EnCon responsibility.
- Safety issues with tying up jet skis on beach.
- Safety enforcement can make it a place [that the violators] won’t want to go to.
- Research the banning of jet skis at the busiest times for safety.
- Social media communications between jet skiers about the presence of patrol.
- Discussion of trash and dumpsters
- Concerned citizens should email your legislators.
- Lawlessness and chaos continues to worsen, the beach is left a mess, violators are becoming threatening, jet ski behaviors have become dangerous.

Next Meeting Date

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, August 8, 2019 at the Salem Town Hall, beginning at 7:00 pm.

Adjournment

Mike Magliano made a motion to adjourn at 9:30 p.m.; seconded by Chris Rios. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Kate Johnson,
Secretary