

June 6, 1980

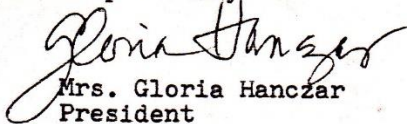
Dear Lake Williams Beach Association members:

This letter is intended to be informative, and primarily, the results of the annual meeting on the first Sunday of June as mandated by our charter.

The officers for the 80-81 fiscal year will be the same people as last year, specifically Mrs. Gloria Hanczar, president; Mrs. Richard Leroy, vice-president; Mr. Raymond Miller, secretary; Mr. Philip Godeck Sr., collector; and Mr. Francis Adamcewicz, treasurer. The collector and treasurer were elected for a 2-year stint, all others for 1 year. Elected to the Board of Directors for 2 years were Mrs. Ann Steinhilber and Mr. James Green. Mrs. Bernyce Brennan and Mr. Anthony Siragusa will serve for one year.

Some of the highlights of the meeting were as follows: 1) homeowners are requested to maintain their properties to a state of sanitary and aesthetic cleanliness. Specific mention was made in disposing of unregistered vehicles. Violators are requested to take action within 15 days from the date of this letter. 2) The state police will be asked to implement the law thereafter. 2) members are asked to assist the constable in curbing speeders by identifying offending drivers through registration plates. 3) overdue taxes will be vigorously pursued, as in the past, by the collector in the form of liens. Currently, there are 12 outstanding liens. 4) There is to be a Lakes Management Seminar at The University of Connecticut June 17, 1980 from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. in room 200 in the Nathan L. Whetten Graduate Center. No formal registration is needed, however the sponsors, "Housatonic Valley Association," request you call 672-6044 for an informal count. There is no charge. Mr. Robert Hathaway will attempt to attend. Interested parties are asked to attend as well. 5) The budget will basically remain unchanged from previous years and the tax rate for the year will be \$10.00 per property owner. The increase in premiums of the liability insurance and some gravel work for the boat launching area accounts for the increase of \$2.00. 6) The attorney search committee comprises of Mr. Richard Leroy, Mrs. Bernyce Brennan and Mrs. Rose Miller. Any suggestions from the membership are welcomed. 7) Mr. William Crandall will underwrite postage dues for association correspondence this year. 8) The Board of Directors will meet soon to determine needed committee people. Interested? Call 642-6197.

Respectfully

  
Mrs. Gloria Hanczar  
President

Thank you to acting secretary Frank Adamcewicz for composing this letter.



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## Bd. of Directors Meeting

August 30, 1980

A special meeting of the Bd. of Directors was called to order by Gloria Hanzar, President, at 7:05 P.M. at the home of Phil Godeck. Present were Anne Steinhilber, Tony Siragusa, Jim Green, Bernyce Brennan and Phil Godeck.

Mrs. Hanzar stated that the purpose of the meeting was to give Phil Godeck, Constable, some direction in enforcement of no overnight parking on beaches for the weekend as he had not yet received the Infraction Summons Book he has had on order from the State Police.

Mrs. Hanzar reported that she had spoken to two attorneys on the question of the Bandzes' alleged easement and request for permanent parking to be allowed on 2<sup>nd</sup> Beach. Atty Paul Heller spoke with her on the phone, and she had an app't with Russell F. Potter of Willimantic.

Phil Godeck reported that he had spoken with a trooper from Troop G in Colechester who gave as another alternative the towing of any cars in violation of overnight parking laws.

After a short discussion, it became the consensus of the group to request Mr. Russell Potts to write a letter to Mr. & Mrs. Bunches citing their violation of Ass'n By-Laws and including whatever appropriate comments or statements he thought necessary.

Mrs. Hanzger stated that she had ~~just~~ completed more signs to be placed on beaches, stating "No Overnight Parking", as two signs had been stolen from second beach since the first part of July.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40.

Respectfully Submitted  
Gloria Hanzger  
Past Secretary for  
Raymond Miller



Board of Directors  
Meeting

Oct 3 1980

Directors Present

Gloria Hanzor Presi.

Richard LeRoy

Ann Stunhobler

Frank Adamcewicz

Bernyce Brennan

Jim Green

Phil Godeck

Tony Sitagouse

Ray Miller

Presi Hanzor -

A letter was received from Mr Budge lawyer in regards to the easment he is suing on second beach

A letter was sent to the town assessors about ~~our~~ property tax and the condition of the lake no answer has been received as yet.

A special Assoc meeting will be held Nov 6 1980 at six 30 o'clock in the downstairs meeting room

The purpose of the meeting is to hear + act on the report of the committee picked to hire an atty look into our problem with Gelman + the lake - water rights etc. After hearing the report by the committee in which the attorney suggested four avenues or ways to approach the problem

- 1 - Contact the Inland - Wetland Agency
- 2 Go Public - Radio Press etc
- 3 Negotiate with Gelman
- 4 Litigation - Get Court.

The board of directors Unanimously agreed  
to recommend to the membership that  
we follow the fourth avenue suggested  
by the lawyer which is Litigation

Meeting Adjourned at 9 PM

RJ Miller Sec.



LWB Assoc

Nov. 6, 1980.

## Special Meeting

Meeting called to order by  
 Pres Gloria Hangan at 6<sup>55</sup> P.M.

A report was given by the Committee  
 who met with Attorney Copper about  
 our problem in regard to the  
 water situation + Delmar

The attorney stated that there  
 were three ways to go in trying  
 to solve the problem - Go public

- ~~1~~ Negotiation Radio-TV-Paper
- ~~2~~ Legislation
- ~~3~~ Litigation

Rich LeRoy read a section of a letter  
 from the Dept of Environmental Protection  
 Agency - Commissioner Stanley Pac

The above mentioned letter was file

A motion was made by James Green  
 That the LWB & accept the recommend-  
 ation of the board of directors to pursue  
 a fair + equitable settlement to our  
 lake problem through the courts -  
 using the attorney's report as our  
 basis for litigation

The motion was seconded by Denis Hangan  
 A question + answer period followed

A motion by Harold Seberman as an  
 amendment to the first motion was to

hire an attorney to gather further information before proceeding with litigation and report to the Board of Directors 2nd by Frank Burns

This amendment motion was defeated by a 14 to 4 count.

The motion by Jim Green passed  
25-5

A motion made to use the money in our account for the purpose of litigation  
Motion passed -

A Committee of three was formed to get the people on the other side of the lake involved in our impending litigation  
Members are Marge Adenshaw, Jean Edwards + Ray Miller.

Meeting adjourned at 8<sup>00</sup> PM

Ray Miller Sec



Lake Williams Drained for Survey Work: LEBANON  
Kendall, Martha F  
The Hartford Courant (1923-1987); Apr 8, 1980;  
ProQuest Historical Newspapers: Hartford Courant (1764-1987)  
pg. E34

## Lake Williams Drained for Survey Work

### LEBANON

By MARTHA F. KENDALL

**LEBANON** — Engineers conducting a survey for Gilman Brothers, owners of Lake Williams dam, have had the 247-acre lake drained.

Last year, the state Department of Environmental Protection ordered Gilman Brothers of Bozrah to repair the dam on Rt. 207 or destroy it, and to conduct an engineering survey to determine what repairs are needed.

Lawrence Gilman said Friday the Hartford engineering firm hired for the survey asked that the lake be drained to a point where it could determine how leakage affects the base of the 125-

year-old stone dam. He said the engineers also are inspecting the dam to determine whether it needs any repairs. He said the DEP has been been told about the draining, so it can monitor environmental impact.

The lake has been draining for several weeks, Gilman said. He said he regrets the loss of fish. Some residents said they have been carrying fish in buckets to other area lakes because they are dying.

Gilman said that if the dam needs only a few repairs, the gates should be closed and the lake filled before summer.

In November, Gilman asked the 140 property owners along the lake to pay \$10,000 a year to operate and maintain the dam, and to maintain the water lev-

el during the summer.

Residents at a meeting in November opposed paying the assessment, but said they would continue negotiating with the Gilmans. Residents also agreed to investigate asking the legislature to create a special town taxing district for the lake, in which the town would collect the assessment with taxes. The Gilmans would continue to control and maintain the dam. Selectmen said then the town couldn't form such a district without calling a town meeting.

Gilman said Friday negotiations with lake property owners were discontinued before the end of 1970, because all property owners must consent to an assessment before it is binding.

Dennis Hanczar, a member of the residents' committee that discussed the dam proposals with Gilman last year, said Saturday, that, because many property owners don't live at the lake all year, no action has been taken over the winter. He said he thinks meetings will resume soon.

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April 9, 1980

ProQuest Historical Newspapers: Hartford Courant (1764-1987)  
pg. 19C

## Dam Inspection Finished; Lake Refilling

### LEBANON

**LEBANON** — Engineers conducting a dam inspection for Gilman Brothers, owners of Lake Williams Dam, have completed their inspection of the dam and the gates are now closed to allow refilling of the almost completely drained lake.

Lawrence Gilman said last week the engineering firm hired for a state Department of Environmental Protection-ordered survey of the dam asked that the lake be drained to a point where the effects of leakage at the base of the 125-year-old dam could be determined.

James Thompson of Buck & Buck Engineering in Hartford said Tuesday the

inspection of the base of the dam has been completed for a report to Gilman Brothers to determine what repairs are necessary to the dam. He said the dam's gates were closed after the Monday inspection.

Thompson said the inspection revealed no major necessary repairs but that additional spillway capacity will be required. He said the report on the dam probably will be ready next week.

Gilman said last week the lake has been draining for several weeks, in order to complete the engineering survey. Some residents said they have been carrying fish in buckets to other area lakes because they are dying.

Robert Jones of the DEP fisheries department said Tuesday that, after repairs are made and the lake again is

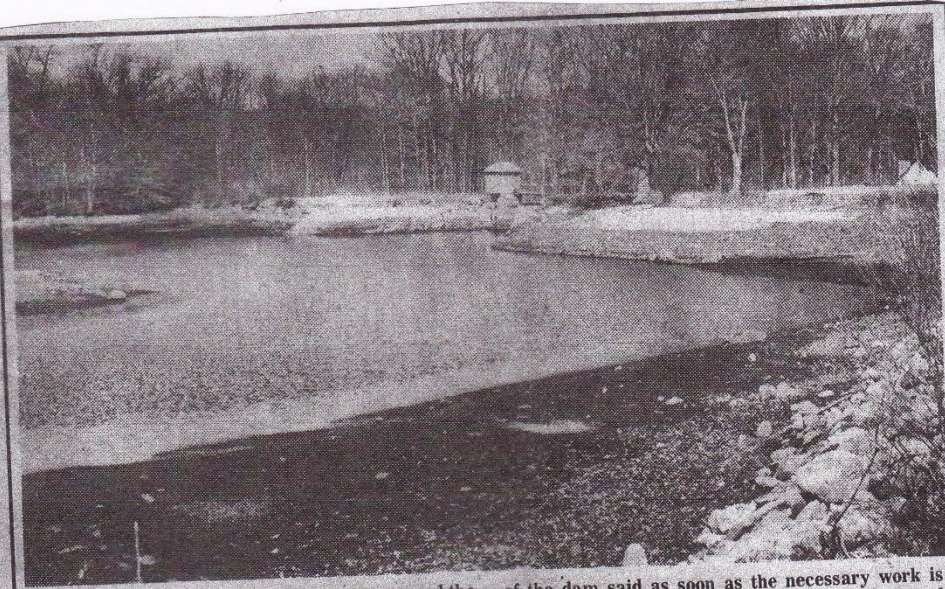
filled, the DEP will examine the fish population to determine whether enough fish exist to continue the fish population. He said the DEP can provide additional brood stock for the lake. The DEP in January 1979, as part of a federal dam inspection program, ordered Gilman to repair the dam or destroy it. He also was ordered to prepare an engineering survey of the dam to determine what repairs, if any, were necessary.

Gilman in November last year asked property owners along the lake to pay \$10,000 a year to operate and maintain the dam and to maintain the water level during the summer.

Residents couldn't agree on a course of action regarding the assessment request and haven't met since November.

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A federally-mandated dam inspection has caused the water level at Lake Williams to drop nearly six feet, exposing all the debris and algae that has accumulated over the years. Residents are concerned about the effect on aquatic life, but one of the owners

of the dam said as soon as the necessary work is completed, the dam's floodgates will be closed and the lake will begin to refill. (Chronicle photos by Bob Hamilton)

## *Lake Williams being drained for inspection of dam*



A federally-mandated dam inspection has caused the water level at Lake Williams to drop nearly six feet, exposing all the debris and algae that has accumulated over the years. Residents are concerned about the effect on aquatic life, but one of the owners

of the dam said as soon as the necessary work is completed, the dam's floodgates will be closed and the lake will begin to refill. (Chronicle photos by Bob Hamilton)

## Lake Williams being drained for inspection of dam

By BOB HAMILTON  
Staff Writer

LEBANON — Residents are becoming increasingly concerned over the receding waters of Lake Williams, but one of the owners of the dam said today their fears are groundless.

Lawrence Gilman, one of the Gilman Bros. of Bozrah, said as soon as the necessary inspections are complete, the floodgates will be closed, and the water will begin to rise again.

Meanwhile, the lake bed is exposing many of the items that have laid beneath 12 feet of water for many years. Old rusty soda cans, bottles, mussel and snail shells, fish, barrels, and about five feet of green mud now are in the open air.

The lake's shores reached their lowest levels Thursday, drawing dozens of curious passers-by. One group of Lyman Memorial High School students stopped to throw rocks into the water, test the depth of the oozy mud, and hold their hands up to their chins while standing on familiar outcroppings of rock to show where the water level was last summer.

Dogs roamed the shore to search for some of the delicacies on the exposed banks, while Lake Williams residents walked along the shores to investigate the extent of the fish kill.

The problem began about one-and-a-half years ago, Gilman said, when the Army Corps of Engineers did a statewide study of dams and disclosed certain structural problems at the Lake Williams dam that have caused some leaking.

Gilman said the federal government's three-inch-thick report on the Lake Williams' dam must have cost

between \$50,000 and \$75,000, but it still told the Bozrah firm to do its own inspection of the dam and then turned the issue over to the state Department of Environmental Protection.

The DEP has been helpful and cooperative in the problem, Gilman said, even allowing the firm to exceed the deadline imposed by the federal government, so the work could be done in the spring.

Gilman said he wanted to do the work in the spring so rain water runoff from the hills, which is heavier in April and May, would fill the lake quickly when the flood gates are closed. He said he will not drain the lake completely, so there will be enough water for fish in the lake to survive.

There have been reports of an abundance of dead fish on the shores of the lake, but an inspection Thursday afternoon revealed less than a half-dozen — less than could be attributed to winter kill.

"They (residents) should be very happy that we have made the determination, after many months of consideration, to save the dam," Gilman said. "For a long time, we didn't know if we would save it or destroy it. And without the dam, none of the fish would have lived."

Gilman said the number of fish that have died because of the receding waters has been "insignificant" when compared to the number of fish in the entire lake. A walk along the shore reveals waters teeming with perch, bass, and bullhead, but very few belly-up in the water.

"We're trying to hurry the process as much as possible," Gilman said. "We don't want the fish to die, and we don't want to hurt our neighbors on the lake."

Gilman said all the work is being done under the supervision of the government and the engineer hired by Gilman Bros. for the inspection. Gilman said he is not "interfering" with the engineer's work, because he doesn't want to influence the final report, which he hopes will be ready Monday.

Gilman has reportedly discontinued his efforts to assess owners of lake property for the dam maintenance. Years ago, Gilman Bros. was reportedly paid a yearly assessment by the former owners of Grand Lake Lodge to keep the waters high during the summer.

The lodge burned down some years ago, although there have been efforts to convert it into apartments, and Gilman has been denied the annual payment.

Gilman Bros. reportedly requested \$20,000 yearly from the Lake Williams Association, but the association was divided on whether to pay. Some residents favored the assessment, claiming since the lake increased property values, it was worth paying to keep the lake. Others, however, referred to the Gilman plan as an extortion attempt and refused to consider the request, although they said the association should consider sharing any repair costs.

Gilman has not pursued the request in recent months and did not say he would be seeking an assessment to refill the lake. Lake residents, who have kept their negotiations with Gilman secret, met Thursday evening at one resident's home, reportedly to discuss the lake draining.

No details of Thursday's meeting were available today.



# Thousands isolated in State expected to free trapped

By BOB HAMILTON  
Staff Writer

LEBANON — When Lake Williams was drained earlier this month, thousands of bass, perch, sunfish, and catfish were trapped in a small, 12-by-15 foot pool below the dam. Today, the rotting carcasses of the fish litter the banks of the stream, and in the pool the remaining hundreds fight for space in the shade, or float belly-up gasping for oxygen.

Lake Williams Association president Gloria Hanczer, who has been seeking action on the problem since early July, said Tuesday she is concerned about the rotting fish and accompanying flies, particularly since many children have been drawn to the pool to retrieve the fish.

Mrs. Hanczer said there has been some

effort by local sportsmen to net the fish and replace them in the lake, but because of the rocky bottom the efforts have been only partially successful.

Her contacts with the state Department of Environmental Protection, she said, have been fruitless. The DEP claims there is no health hazard posed by the dead fish, and it would be economically unfeasible to retrieve them for restocking the lake.

Town Sanitarian Donald Johnson and First Selectman Edward Clark Tuesday reported similar experiences with the DEP. Johnson expressed a feeling of futility, claiming if local officials make a move without consulting the DEP, there is an uproar by state officials, but when municipal officials contact the state, there is no action taken.

When contacted by the Chronicle this morning, however, DEP Fish and Game

official Joseph Tiza said he decided late Tuesday to take some action.

Tiza said he contacted the owner of the dam, Gilman Bros. Co. of Norwich, and this afternoon the dam's lock is scheduled to be opened for a short time to wash the fish down to nearby Brewster's Pond and flush the fish carcasses from the banks.

Moreover, if such a solution is unsuccessful, Tiza said, he will send a contingent of Youth Conservation Corps workers up to the site to empty the pool of fish by hand and replace them in the lake.

Tiza said, Lake Williams, long regarded as one of the best bass fishing spots in the state, will be restocked with bass this summer to ensure it retains its reputation in the future.

Tiza said it was a mistake for the lake to be drained so rapidly, and then have the water

the Chronicle, Willimantic, Conn., Wednesday, July 16, 1980 5

## small pool fish at Lake Williams

now cut off, trapping the fish in the pool.

"It's been a misunderstanding from start to finish," Tiza concluded.

Misunderstandings have been rampant in the confrontation between the Lake Williams Association and the Gilman Bros. Last year, the Gilmans told the association it would be assessed \$10,000 per year if the level of the lake was to be maintained. Reportedly, the Gilmans have lowered that demand to \$7,500 and have said even that figure is negotiable.

The talks broke off in December 1979, when the association's attorney, William Tyler, sought to obtain guarantees relating to the agreement and negotiate the price, Mrs. Hanczer said.

Association members have claimed the decision to drain the lake was because of the unsuccessful negotiations, but Gilman has maintained he drained it under orders from

the DEP for an inspection of the leaky dam.

The Gilmans have declined to discuss the amount of the assessment, but have said it is being demanded because the dam is expensive to maintain. If the association decides not to contribute to the maintenance they said, the lake may be drained permanently.

Johnson has said he is not overly concerned about the situation, since natural predators such as raccoons will quickly clear the pool of fish, and others will swim down the shallow water to Brewster's Pond.

Mrs. Hanczer, however, said she is upset the fish have been trapped in the middle of an argument between the association and the Gilman Bros. and are suffering from heated water and lack of food and oxygen, only a few feet away from the lake that was once their home.



# Property Owners Eye Problems With Dam

## LEBANON

LEBANON — Property owners at Lake Williams will meet Wednesday to reopen talks regarding problems of the lake's dam.

Owners of the 125-year-old dam, Lawrence and Charles Gilman of Gilman Brothers of Bozrah, facing a DEP order to repair or destroy the dam, last November asked property owners for a \$10,000-a-year assessment for use of the lake. Property owners couldn't agree on a course of action regarding the assessment request and haven't met since November.

Mrs. Dennis Hanczar, president of the lake association, said Thursday the group has notified non-resident property owners of the meeting to discuss funds to hire an attorney regarding the problems faced by them from the assessment request. She said the group also will discuss further action.

Engineers conducting a DEP survey of the dam for Gilman Brothers last month had the 247-acre lake drained to determine what repairs are needed. Lawrence Gilman said he expected the lake to be refilled by summer if no expensive repairs are needed.

Property owners at the November meeting regarding Gilman's request for the assessment to use the lake and to maintain the water level opposed paying the \$10,000 but said they would continue negotiating with Gilman.

Property owners also agreed to investigate asking the legislature to create a special town taxing district for the lake, in which the town would collect the assessment with taxes. Selectmen said forming such a district would require a town meeting.

Gilman said last month negotiations with lake property owners were discontinued after the November meeting because all owners must consent to the assessment before any action can be taken.

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Water Being Drained from Lake Williams: LEBANON  
The Hartford Courant (1923-1987); Jul 18, 1980;  
ProQuest Historical Newspapers: Hartford Courant (1764-1987)  
pg. 26B

# Water Being Drained from Lake Williams

## LEBANON

LEBANON — Water again is being drained from Lake Williams after residents requested a cleanup of dead and dying fish washed out of the lake from an April draining.

State Department of Environmental Protection Fish and Game Officer Jo-

seph Tiza said Thursday he requested that the Lake Williams dam owners, the Gilman Brothers of Bozrah, open the dam gates enough to wash fish caught below the dam in low water to Brewster Pond, a Gilman-owned pond below Lake Williams. Tiza said a Gilman's engineer told him Wednesday, however, that the dam was open that day to supply the company's Bozrah plant with more water. Water still was draining from the lake Thursday.

Engineers conducting a survey of the dam for Gilman Brothers in April requested that the lake be drained to a point where they could determine how leaks affect the base of the 125-year-old dam. The survey was conducted as a result of a DEP order to repair or destroy the dam and to conduct an engineering survey to determine what repairs are needed. The DEP order is part of a national dam inspection program.

The April draining took several weeks and emptied the lake to a point where only pockets of water remained.

Residents this week said that fish from the April draining became trapped in a shallow brook below the dam when water stopped flowing from Lake Williams to Brewster Pond.

Piza said Gilman Brothers have been "very cooperative." He said catching the trapped fish, many of which are still alive and healthy in a deep pool below the lake, would be too expensive for the state. He said after the April draining many residents caught fish from Brewster Pond to take back to Lake Williams. He said there are few fish left in Lake Williams.

Gilman Brothers in November asked lake residents to pay \$10,000 a year to operate and maintain the dam and to maintain the water level during the summer. Residents couldn't agree on a course of action regarding the assessment request, and lake association members in May voted to hire an attorney to assist in making a decision about the assessment request.

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Lebanon Acts To Vacate Lake Homes  
Kendall, Martha F.  
The Hartford Courant (1923-1987); Jan 3, 1981;  
ProQuest Historical Newspapers: Hartford Courant (1764-1987)  
pg. B1B

## Lebanon Acts To Vacate Lake Homes

By MARTHA F. KENDALL

LEBANON — Zoning Enforcement Officer Donald Johnson has begun serving orders to about 26 residents at the town's three lakes to vacate seasonal houses or face legal action.

Johnson said Friday that he served cease and desist orders this week to six Red Cedar Lake residents. He said he will serve similar orders to eight residents at Lake Williams, two at Amston Lake and 10 more at Red Cedar Lake.

All are violating zoning regulations by remaining year-round in seasonal houses, Johnson said.

Zoning regulations stipulate that seasonal dwellings may be occupied between April 30 and Nov. 1. An additional 30 days use also is permitted during the winter. Regulations also require two acres for year-round residences.

A Norwich Superior Court judge Jan. 12 will begin hearings on the town's claim that Red Cedar Lake resident Theodore Murzyn is violating zoning regulations by remaining in his seasonal house year-round. Murzyn is one of about 25 lake residents who last year was ordered by Johnson to vacate his seasonal home. Johnson has said Murzyn built his home with a permit for a seasonal dwelling.

The town began legal action against Murzyn last year, but no court date was set until last month when Town Attorney John Fitz Gerald asked New London County Superior Court Judge Angelo Santaniello to set a trial date for the case.

Lake residents have cited a court case last year that allowed a Red Cedar Lake resident to remain in her home because of her claim that the lake was omitted from zoning until 1974. Town officials, however, have cited a recent ruling in which New London County Superior Court Judge Joseph Purtillo upheld a Zoning Board of Appeals denial of a New York resident's request for a variance to convert an Amston Lake summer home to a year-round residence.



## Lake residents split on dam issue

By RUSSELL GLITMAN  
Staff Writer

LEBANON — Negotiations between the Lake Williams Dam Study Committee and Lawrence Gilman will continue despite legal action being pursued by the Lake Williams Beach Association.

Members of the study committee said Monday Gilman, owner of the lake's dam, had been meeting and cooperating with them in an effort to resolve a water rights issue that once again threatens to turn the lake's placid waters into electricity for his power plant.

The committee represents all property owners on the lake. The Legal Committee, which has also been called a dam committee, of the 126 member association is seeking an injunction against Gilman to arrest the draining of the lake to provide power for the Gilman Brother's Co.

Blanche Newman of the study committee said negotiations had been proceeding well "until radicals in the association hired an attorney."

Gilman has offered to sell the dam at an undisclosed price to the residents, or repair it for \$10,000. The study committee

was charged in May, 1979, to find methods of raising the money among residents, and negotiate a price, the water level and time of drainage.

According to Bernyce Brennan, chairwoman of the association's legal committee, negotiations had proceeded so poorly that the association voted to pursue litigation last November.

A list of plaintiffs is currently being sought by the association's attorney, Peter Cooper.

"Most people would prefer to settle this peacefully," Mrs. Brennan said, "but the association is unified on the litigation effort."

Gloria Hanczar, president of the association, said Gilman presented the association with a proposal to sell the dam at a Feb. 17 meeting. According to Mrs. Hanczar and Mrs. Brennan, Gilman said a written offer would be presented to the association the next day.

"We never received the offer in writing," Mrs. Hanczar said. "We only heard about it second hand."

The association's legal committee has twice tried to resolve the water rights issue by negotiations, Mrs. Brennan said. She read a reply by Gilman to

a letter from Cooper seeking a meeting.

"We will defend our rights against any and all intruders," Gilman responded Jan. 16.

"It almost sounds like a declaration of war," Mrs. Brennan said.

The lake was drained last summer by order of the Army Corps of Engineers for inspection. According to the state Department of Environmental Protection, Gilman is once again draining his lake, but this time to provide power to his Bozrah Light and Power Co.

Gilman notified the commissioner two weeks ago of his intention to lower the lake. The dam was still open Monday.

The association represents property owners on the northeastern section of the lake. About 20 property owners on other sections of the lake do not belong to the association, but are represented by the dam committee.

The association argues Gilman's actions threaten the residents' fire protection and health, while depriving them of any recreational use of the lake.

"I think we're pretty fortunate to enjoy a lake which he (Gilman) owns free of charge," Mrs. Newman said.

## Lake Williams dispute:

# Legislative solution eyed by Broder

By RUSSELL GLITMAN  
Staff Writer

LEBANON--The town's state representative will meet with the owner of the Lake Williams dam in an effort to resolve a crisis that threatens to leave lake dwellers high and dry.

Joseph Broder, R-Colchester, said he will talk to dam owner Lawrence Gilman this week. Meanwhile, his researchers are examining possible legislative solutions to the problem and investigating similar legislation in other states.

The dam has been open for several weeks, which Broder said "lends a note of urgency" to his meeting.

"It's enough to indicate there may be a problem this year," Broder

said. Gilman's refusal to talk to residents in the last month has made it difficult to resolve the key question in the dispute—who owns the water rights to the lake?

"It seems to me that people who live around the lake and have been there quite some time, must have some sort of right to have the level maintained," Broder said.

Water rights law, according to Broder who is also a lawyer, is not "a black and white issue. Each body of water is different."

Members of the Lake Williams Beach Association, which represents most of the homeowners around the lake, voted to bring suit against Gilman to ensure a

minimum water level in the lake. Other residents have continued previous efforts to negotiate a solution to the drainage problem, but have not had contact with Gilman for a month.

Gilman offered to sell the dam at an undisclosed price or repair it for \$10,000 after the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers found problems with it last summer.

In order to inspect the dam, the lake was drained and most of the fish died. In a July 30 letter the state Department of Environmental Protection assured residents the lake would be restocked.

"When the situation stabilizes and it is deemed necessary, and fish are available, an attempt to rein-

troduce" breed stock will be made, DEP Commissioner Stanley Pac wrote, adding that Gilman's flowage rights superseded any environmental considerations.

Tuesday, Joseph Pisa, DEP's local director of fisheries, said fish would be reintroduced to the lake as "soon as we can find some." He could not set a date.

Terming it a "bad situation," Pisa said some bass had been brought to the lake by sportsmen who caught them in neighboring Brewster Pond. A "very few" had also been introduced last summer.

"We're looking for a pond where we can net them," Pisa said. "The lake needs more fish, there's no doubt about that."



# Legal action pursued to prevent draining of Lake Williams

By RUSSELL GLITMAN  
Staff Writer

LEBANON — An injunction against the Gilman Brother's Co. to close the Lake Williams dam is in the offing, according to members of the Lake Williams Beach Association.

According to an official of the water resources unit of the state Department of Environmental Protection, the lake is being drained to provide extra power to Gilman's Bozrah Power and Light Co.

The official, who did not want his name released, said the Gilman Brother's Co. owns all rights to the dam and water in the lake. Company President Lawrence Gilman notified the commissioner of environmental protection last week he intended to open the dam by four inches to lower the lake level.

Bozrah Light and Power Co. management would not comment, but a secretary said she was told the company had nothing to do with Lake Williams.

All attempts to negotiate a peace between Gilman and the 126 member association by its dam committee have failed, according to committee member Frank Adamcewicz.

Adamcewicz said Gilman had been exercising total water rights because of his control of the dam.

"We would like to determine what our rights and his rights are," Adamcewicz said Thursday.

Efforts by the committee's attorney, Peter Cooper, to arrange a meeting to resolve the differences have met with "defensive replies," Adamcewicz said.

Reached this morning Gilman said he had no comment about what he does with his own property.

"This is private property, and we'll do with it as we think is proper," Gilman said. "What do newspapers or anyone else have

to do with what we do with our property?"

The injunction would force Gilman to prove in court why he should be allowed to lower the lake level causing a safety and health hazard and depriving residents of recreational facilities, Adamcewicz said.

Gilman reportedly began to lower the lake earlier this week. Adamcewicz fears that if the lake is lowered too far, it will leave residents without any fire protection.

In January, firefighters battling a house blaze had to lay out almost a mile of hose to reach water deep enough to draw, Adamcewicz said.

A low lake level could also be a health hazard, Adamcewicz said, because anyone falling from the four foot high sea walls on many properties would not be cushioned by water.

A low lake water level may also affect the water table in the area, Adamcewicz said. Last year when Gilman completely drained the lake at the request of the state Department of Environmental Protection, at least one well went dry, and the dam committee fears more will be empty this year if the lake is again drained.

That draining of the lake, once known as one of Connecticut's best bass fishing areas, resulted in a terrible fish kill, Adamcewicz said.

Gilman's action once again threatens the recreational — swimming, boating and fishing — use of the lake by residents, Adamcewicz charged.

The committee has had no support from the town government, legislators or the DEP despite repeated attempts by the committee to elicit their support.

"The town has been very reluctant to get involved because the beaches are private," Adamcewicz said. "I have asked (First Selectman) Edward Clark to get his feet wet, and Selectman Russell Tollmann, but they are disinterested."



# Lake Williams: A Federal Dam Program's Effect on a Community

MARTHA... KENDALL Courant Correspondent  
 The Hartford Courant (1923-1987); Apr 6, 1981;  
 ProQuest Historical Newspapers: Hartford Courant (1764-1987)  
 Pg. B1C

4/6/81

## Lake Williams: A Federal Dam Program's Effect on a Community

By MARTHA KENDALL  
 Courant Correspondent

LEHMANON — Hartwood Kaner was born near Lake Williams 60 years ago and has lived there all his life. In 1952 he bought a campground along the lake's shore, a campground he says was there long before he was. "Campers used to come here in a horse and wagon, the multi-mannered man always done to enjoy the lake as he has always done."

But while residents at other lakes are looking forward to another summer of swimming, boating and fishing, Kaner faces spending another summer trying to be a pacemaker between residents and the lake. He has no money to spend on the lake, but he has all enjoy. Last year the tranquility at Lake Williams ended, and lake residents found that the lake isn't really theirs.

.....  
 This was just the beginning. ....  
 "It's a serious situation," said Lawrence Gilman, DEP's regional director. "The DEP is not taking the lake as a problem with the dam, nor will we discuss with an outsider the company's search until the owner of the Reservoir Dam could be determined and then receive the DEP order to repair it."

The Lake Williams Dam controls the water flow for Gilman's Borchah factory, where plastic products are made.

According to the U.S. Army Corps report, the repairs the dam needs are relatively minor. The report refers to erosion in case of a flood and a survey of the dam by a qualified engineering company within about a year of the Corps inspection. Gilman has hired Buck and Buck engineers of Hartford for the job.

The major cost, though, will probably be to enlarge the dam's spillway, which the Corps says may be inadequate to contain water from a "maximum" flood.

According to Victor Gligowski, the DEP's superintendent of dams, his one small dam in the state, he said, will cost about \$70,000.

For Gilman, like many dam owners in the country, the federal inspection program has added up to one thing: money. Gilman took the DEP report in 1976, the 120-family member lake association with a request for members to share the repair costs of the dam.

The request produced a shock from which residents still haven't recovered. They still can't agree on how to pay for the repairs.

"We do recognize that he owns it (the dam)," said Harold Liebman, an association member whose family has owned property at the lake since 1921. "It's his. The arrangement in past years was . . . that he maintained it and we had the benefits. If there's a change in circumstances, we don't think it's unreasonable. We've had the use of it free all these years."

Although the dispute remains a private matter between Gilman Brothers and lake residents, Gligowski's files are crammed with similar problems and disputes.

Money problems have arisen not

only for private owners like Gilman Brothers, but for many of the state's 56 municipal dams that hold public water supplies. Following the Corps report, engineers in Meriden estimated that city would have to pay \$175,000 for its engineering survey. Manchester's Reservoir Dam could be determined and then receive the DEP order to repair it.

.....  
 Faced with the possibility of the loss

"Absent," said many property owners during a meeting to discuss the re-assessment price," said Bernice Brennan, a 14-year resident of the lake.

Brennan was also among the residents who was outraged when still another, more tangible, chapter in the saga occurred.

This was last spring, when Buck & Buck started preparing for the ship. "We bought here because there was a lake . . . we pay high taxes because

was closed and the lake began filling. The DEP considered to the town and to the DEP about the stench of dead and dying fish.

The gate was again opened to wash away the fish to a lower pond, also owned by Gilman Brothers, but residents, during a summer with almost no rain, watched whole sections of the lake dry up into mud flats. Brennan said she fears the algae growth would result in the slow death of the lake.

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aid they have no use for the lake), the DEP considered to the town and to the DEP about the stench of dead and dying fish.

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"We bought here because there was a lake . . . we pay high taxes because of

.....  
 Gilman's \$10,000 assessment offer wasn't accepted by the association, which would have had to be paid in course of action. Instead, some of the members voted last year to go to court to determine just what their rights are. Meanwhile, the latest chapter unfolded.

As the group's attorney, Peter Cooper of New Haven, was preparing his case, Gilman Brothers offered to sell the dam to the association for an amount that neither Gilman nor the association will discuss. Hanczar said however, "It's a lot."

In February, five inches of rain brought the lake back to its normal level. The lake is still in its "green" state, said Hanczar, but the lake is short-lived. By March, residents said the lake was draining again and no one knew why.

Gilman said he won't say or do anything because of the impending litigation. The association says it's waiting for the DEP to order to sell the dam to be put into operation.

Association members are split down the middle as to what the proper course of action is.

Meanwhile, Kaner and Liebman are still trying to negotiate an agreement for either a temporary rental fee for the lake or for the sale of the dam. "We're trying to negotiate for the dam . . . and to get along with Gilman," Kaner said in frustration.

But spring got under way last month, summer is only a few weeks away and a settlement to the problem has not been reached. A dam in Idaho collapsed, sundered when a dam in Idaho collapsed. It is no nearer than it was two years ago.

.....  
 The lake . . . now instead of having its flowing water, it's become a detriment," said Brennan. Hanczar said no property has been sold at the lake for more than a year.

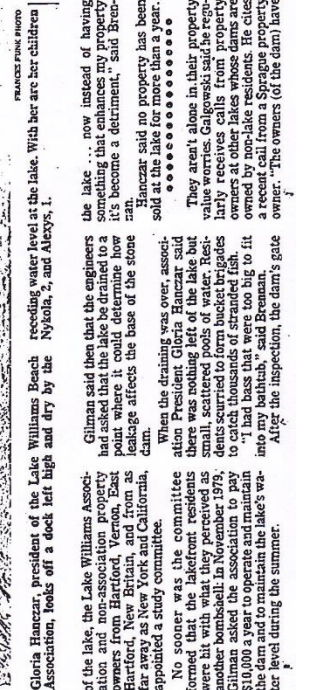
.....  
 They aren't alone in their property value worries. Gligowski said he regularly receives calls from property owners at other lakes whose dams are owned by non-lake residents. He cites a recent call from a Sprague property owner. The owners of the dam have

.....  
 Gilman said then that the engineers had asked that the lake be drained to a point where it could determine how damage affects the base of the dam.

When the draining was over, association President Gloria Hanczar said there was nothing left of the lake but small, scattered pools of water. Residents scurried to form bucket brigades to carry thousands of stranded fish.

"I had bass that were too big to fit in my handily," said Brennan. After the inspection, the dam's gate

.....  
 Gloria Hanczar, president of the Lake Williams Beach recording water level at the lake. With her are her children



Gloria Hanczar, president of the Lake Williams Beach recording water level at the lake. With her are her children

.....  
 No sooner was the committee formed that the lakefront residents were hit with what they perceived as another bombshell: In November 1979, Gilman asked the association to pay \$10,000 a year to operate and maintain the dam and for the lake's water level during the summer.



## Lebanon Residents Fighting To Spare Lake Williams

■ The headline on The Courant's April 6 article on Lake Williams in Lebanon, "Lake Williams: a Federal Dam Program's Effect on a Community," is a tragic joke.

Lake owner Lawrence Gilman never took the Department of Environmental Protection's report to the lake association. Concerning his request for \$10,000 per year to maintain the dam, he *never* assured the residents that the lake's water level would be maintained — even if he were paid \$10,000 per year. Who wouldn't consider such a proposal absurd?

During the July opening of the dam to flush away dead fish, some town officials were present. Couldn't they have provided a fire truck to hose these dead fish away? No. Instead, the little water remaining in the lake was used for this purpose. The last inch of water in the lake solved the problem.

The DEP has a moral obligation to preserve the environment. Isn't it about time it was instrumental in seeking legislation to prevent its destruction? A lake could have been preserved and the inspection of the dam still carried out, had a diver been used.

The Courant's statement that the lake association members are split down the middle is absolutely false.



This association voted overwhelmingly on Nov. 6, 1980, to seek litigation to preserve the lake. There were only five dissenting members in an association that numbers over 120 property owners.

Bernyce Brennan  
Lebanon

received no complaints, he at

## Lake directors to seek injunction

LEBANON— Despite efforts at negotiations by a state legislator, the Lake Williams board of directors has voted to seek an injunction against Lawrence Gilman to close the lake's dam.

The recent vote by the exasperated board came after Rep. Joseph Broder, R-Colchester, arranged a fruitless meeting with Gilman and several lake residents.

Gilman reportedly offered once again to sell the lake's dam to the association for \$600,000, but said he would have a definite figure by the end of May.

Plaintiffs for the suit against Gilman have

been tabulated by the association's lawyer, Peter Cooper. Residents have been waiting for action since a November vote to pursue litigation.

"This has been dragging on and on," lake resident George Brennan said.

The dam's gate is open, and despite heavy rainfall in recent weeks, the lake level is below normal.

Gilman uses the water for cooling at his Bozrah factory. Last summer he was ordered by the state to drain the lake, causing three wells to go dry and killing fish.

May 14, 1981

LWBA sues Gilman Brothers

Superior Court, New London County  
 at Norwich, May 14, 1981.  
 Returnable third Tuesday of June,  
 1981.

LAKE WILLIAMS BEACH  
 ASSOCIATION, ET AL  
 v.  
 THE GILMAN BROTHERS  
 COMPANY, ET AL

ORDER OF NOTICE

If appearing to the Superior Court for  
 the Judicial District of New London at  
 Norwich that the parties either adverse  
 to the plaintiffs' interests or otherwise  
 interested in the above appeal are so nu-  
 merous that it would be impracticable  
 and impossible to make them all parties  
 to this action by personal service it is  
 ORDERED that notice of the institu-  
 tion and pendency of the above com-  
 plaint and motion for a temporary in-  
 junction be given to parties adverse to  
 the plaintiffs' interests or otherwise in-  
 terested in the above appeal, by some  
 officer or indifferent person causing a  
 true and attested copy of the within or-  
 der of notice to be published in the fol-  
 lowing named manner and respect:

1. That certain numerous parties  
 whose names and addresses have not  
 been determined, most of whom are  
 residents of the Town of Lebanon, be  
 served by causing a true and attested  
 copy of this order of notice to be pub-  
 lished at least once a week for two  
 successive weeks, commencing on or  
 before May 29, 1981 in the Norwich Bulle-  
 tin, a newspaper published in Norwich  
 and circulated in the Town of Lebanon  
 and in The Hartford Courant, a newspa-  
 per published in Hartford and circulat-  
 ing throughout the State of Connecticut.  
 Dated at Norwich, Connecticut this  
 14th day of May, 1981.

A true copy, attest:

JOHN SELLICK,  
 Deputy Sheriff,  
 New London County.

5/21/81

Superior Court, New London County  
 at Norwich, May 14, 1981.  
 Returnable third Tuesday of June,  
 1981.

LAKE WILLIAMS BEACH  
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 and circulated in the Town of Lebanon  
 and in The Hartford Courant, a newspa-  
 per published in Hartford and circulat-  
 ing throughout the State of Connecticut.  
 Dated at Norwich, Connecticut this  
 14th day of May, 1981.

A true copy, attest:

JOHN SELLICK,  
 Deputy Sheriff,  
 New London County.

5/23/81