



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

STATE OFFICE BUILDING HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06115



July 1, 1974

Mr. Raymond Boutin, Secretary
Cooks Pond Association
69 Circle Drive
Stratford, Connecticut 06497

Re: Cooks Pond Dam
Stratford

Dear Mr. Boutin:

As you undoubtedly recall, in a letter dated November 6, 1973 Mr. Dewghirst, the owner of the subject dam, informed this office that he had no intentions of repairing it. He further stated that unless your association agreed to making the necessary repairs he would drain the impoundment. You were informed that this office had no objections to the association undertaking the project.

To date we have received no assurance from your association that you plan to place the dam in a safe condition:

Unless we are informed within two weeks that you plan to take action in this matter, an Order for its removal will be issued to Mr. Dewghirst.

Very truly yours,

Victor F. Galgowski

Victor F. Galgowski
Superintendent of Dam Maintenance
Water and Related Resources
Telephone 566-5506

VFG:n

377
7/1/74

D.E.P. HAS POWER TO INSPECT & ORDER
REPAIR OF DAMS - SEC. 25-111

"IF AFTER INSPEC HE FINDS IT UNSAFE HE
SHALL ORDER THE PERSON OWNING OR HAVING
CONTROL TO PLACE IT IN A SAFE CONDITION OR
REMOVE IT"

This paper was produced from recycled paper - both broke and reused.

Re: Cocks Pond Dam
Stratford

July 3rd, 1974

Mr. Victor F. Galgowski
Supt. of Dam Maintenance
Water & Related Resources
Dept. of Environmental Protection
State Office Building
Hartford, Conn. 06115

Dear Mr. Galgowski:

I have come into possession of a letter from the Department of Environmental Protection dated July 1, 1974 signed by yourself, and addressed to a Mr. Raymond Boutin.

In the last paragraph of your letter you state that if the Cocks Pond Association does not take action to restore the dam to a safe condition you will issue an order for its removal to Mr. Deshler, the owner of same.

I would bring to your attention that under Section 25-111 "If after inspection he finds it unsafe he shall order the person owning or having control to place it in a safe condition, or remove it." This dam has been in place since the year 1925 and serves as an important water shed and retention basin for the northern part of our community. In addition, the Pond is presently surrounded by a number of houses. To drain it would create many problems such as odors from rotting vegetation, it would be completely displeasing aesthetically, and as aforementioned would have a serious effect on the town wide drainage system.

I urgently request that you order the owner to place it in a safe condition, and not under any circumstances to order its removal.

Mr. Victor F. Galgowski

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7/3/74

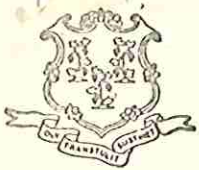
Please respond as to your intentions as quickly as possible.

Very truly yours,

Joseph W. Venable,
Town Manager

JWV:FCE

cc: F. Kutzmay



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

STATE OFFICE BUILDING

HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06115



8 July 1974

RECEIVED
JUL 9 1974
TOWN MANAGER'S OFFICE

Mr. Joseph W. Venables
Town Manager
Town Hall
Stratford, CT 06497

Re: Cooks Pond
Stratford

Dear Mr. Venables:

Thank you for your recent letter pertaining to the subject dam.

My sentiments in regard to the desirability of preserving this structure coincide with yours. However, according to the statute which you quote, Section 25-111, we only have two options; order its repair or removal.

On November 2, 1973 Mr. Dewhirst had been ordered to repair the dam. He replied that sometime in the past he had given a sum of money to the association toward the cost of this work. He further stated he would drain the pond if they failed to maintain the dam. In a letter dated November, 15, 1973 we informed Mr. Boutin that this department had no objection to the association carrying out the needed work.

I am certain that you will agree this dam is in poor condition and does present a hazard. The statutes do not empower this unit to force an owner to make needed repairs. If the parties having an interest in this structure fail to place it in a safe condition, our only recourse is to order its removal.

We would welcome any suggestions you might have in saving this dam.

Very truly yours,

Victor F. Galgowski

Victor F. Galgowski
Supt. of Dam Maintenance
Water & Related Resources
Telephone no. 566-5506

VFG:l.jg

RECEIVED
JUL 10 1974
ENGINEERING DEPT.

COPY



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
STATE OFFICE BUILDING HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06115

C.F.B. COPY

TO:
CHARLES
BUYNOSKY

27 June 1977

Mr. Wesley M. Cronk
Kasper Associates, Inc.
3070 Main Street
Bridgeport, CT 06606

Re: Cooks Pond Dam
Stratford

Dear Mr. Cronk:

Reference is made to your letter of June 16, 1977 to Commissioner Pac pertaining to the subject dam.

The Water Resources Unit has no objections to the temporary lowering of the pond elevation to facilitate surveys necessary for the preparation of plans for the repair or removal of the structure.

You should, however, be aware of Section 26-138 of the General Statutes which relates to draining of water from ponds. According to this statute, the Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Protection must be informed at least 48 hours before any such draining commences to allow time necessary to determine whether the removal or salvage of fish would be necessary.

The draining procedure should be carried out in a manner that would minimize the environmental impact to the surrounding area.

Hopefully, the time necessary to conduct surveys will not be extensive and some water will be restored to the pond area as soon as possible.

Very truly yours,

Victor F. Galgowski

Victor F. Galgowski
Supt. of Dam Maintenance
Water Resources Unit
Telephone no. 566-7245

VFG:ljk

cc: Michael Brown ✓

RECEIVED

AUG 3 1977

ENVIROMENTAL DEPT.



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

STATE OFFICE BUILDING

HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06115

T. Huse
1-13-78



15 November 1977

RECEIVED

JAN 10 1978

ENGINEERING DEPT.

Mr. D. R. Trueblood
Director of Public Works
Town Hall
2725 Main Street
Stratford, CT 06497

Re: Cooks Pond Dam
Stratford

Dear Mr. Trueblood:

Your recent letter to Deputy Commissioner Schneidermeyer raising questions pertaining to the subject dam has been referred to me.

The structure was inspected by staff members and also a consultant to this department in October, 1973. The dam was declared unsafe primarily due to the deteriorated conditions of the concrete spillway section and the severe seepage noted through the earthen embankment. According to Section 25-111 of the General Statutes, the Commissioner was mandated to order the owner to either repair the dam or to remove it.

When a dam of this type is constructed or major repairs undertaken to an existing one, the present policy of the Department of Environmental Protection is that a spillway be provided to pass the 100 year storm without overtopping. We feel this is a very reasonable requirement.

In our opinion, the roadway immediately downstream of Cooks Pond could be damaged if the dam failed. This is a significant reason for ordering the necessary alterations to the present dam. Of course, the owner of the dam can appeal any decision of the Commissioner if he feels aggrieved.

Very truly yours,

Victor F. Galgowski
Supt. of Dam Maintenance
Water Resources Unit
Telephone no. 566-7245

VFG:ljk



December 19, 1974

MEMORANDUM TO: The Stratford Town Council
FROM: The Stratford Conservation Commission
SUBJECT: Cook's Pond ←

Gentlemen:

In response to the Town Council's request on 13 August for an environmental assessment of Cook's Pond by the Commission, we enclose copies of the assessment prepared by Commission member Robert Jontos.

Yours,

Lewis G. Knapp, Chairman

LGK:HHC
Enclosures

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

OF

COOK'S POND

Prepared by: THE STRATFORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
December 19, 1974

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ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OF COOK'S POND

I Statement of Purpose:

The Department of Environmental Protection has ordered Mr. Dewhirst, present owner of the dam at Cook's Pond, to initiate the repair or removal of the existing structure. The property owners adjacent to the dam have no legal title to it and have asked the Town Council to intervene on their behalf to save the dam and impoundment. In order to more accurately ascertain the value of such a structure to the citizenry of the Town of Stratford, this environmental assessment has been prepared. The assessment has been divided into four separate situations for consideration: (1) The present condition of the Pond and adjacent environs; (2) The proposed removal of the dam and its environmental impact on the Pond and adjoining areas; (3) The impact associated with dam repair only; and, (4) The impact of dam repair and site improvement.

II Description of Location:

Cook's Pond is situated in the North Central portion of the Town. Hydrologically the Pond is situated at the neck of a major drainage basin (see map). This basin includes Trapfalls Reservoir, Beaver Dam Pond and Pumpkin Ground Brook (total watershed area approximately 7.56 square miles).

Before dam construction in 1924 by Mr. Cook, the area had functioned as an overflow basin for Beaver Dam Reservoir. Regular cleaning and maintenance was provided the Pond until its sale in 1950 to Mr. Dewhirst. During 1956 the Pond was drained to make repairs to the dam. At the present time the Pond is bounded on the north and south by private homes. To the east and west the Pond is bounded by forest land. Access to the area is via Cut Spring Road to Circle Drive.

III Physical and Biological Characteristics:

During 1971 a biological and physical investigation was conducted at Cook's Pond^{A.} (1). The data presented here is from that study.

A. Physical Characteristics:

- (1) Pond area - 4.6 acres (approximately)
- (2) Volume - 154,199 gallons
- (3) Bottom type--alluvial deposits (silt and sand), plus organic debris
- (4) Maximum depth - 7.02 feet (westerly portion of Pond); shallowest depths, less than 2.75 feet--(easterly portion greater than 4 feet--average 3.42 feet)

B. Biological Characteristics:

- (1) Flora
 - a. macroflora - natural succession to forest land has

been interrupted by the planting of lawns, in many cases, to the waters edge. Several other areas are typified by low growing bushes and scattered aquatic vegetation.

- b. microflora - planktonic organisms are indicative of "polluted water" and in more abundant numbers than "clean water" forms.

(2) Fauna

- a. macrofauna--terrestrial and avian: a variety of animals ranging from chipmunks to rarely seen species of birds (i.e. kingfisher). The area is also frequented by migratory waterfowl.
- b. aquatic: frogs and limited numbers of panfish; some reptiles also. The absence of trout and popular gamefish is attributed to reduced dissolved oxygen levels observed in the Pond.

In summary, Cook's Pond can be considered to be in a eutrophic condition. This is evidenced by the presence of blue-green algae; the lack of dissolved oxygen; the limited numbers of panfish; and, finally by the lack of stratified thermal zones in the Pond. (1)

IV Aesthetic Values:

From an aesthetic viewpoint, the Pond provides the property owners with a unique environment. The presence of wooded land

and a water body in close proximity to homes lends a rustic value to the home environment.

V The Dam:

A. Present Condition:

An engineering analysis of the structure indicates repair, replacement or modification of various portions of the structure.

Such activities would include:

- replacement of southerly abutment
- addition of pervious fill to the earthen face of the dam
- a toe drain to be constructed under the earthen fill to stabilize the slope and reduce the percolation of water under the structure
- the construction of an auxiliary spillway

B. Flood Control:

At the present time Cook's Pond provides little value, if any, for flood control. This is in part due to the present Pond dimensions, dam design and the presence of wetlands above the Pond, which help regulate surface water discharge.

VI Alternatives:

A. Dam Removal

Removal of the dam entirely would result in a significant impact on the ambient environment and also act upon adjacent

- downstream areas. The elimination of the impoundment would:
- effectively eliminate a potentially viable environment and associated aquatic organisms
 - eliminate recreational use of the Pond for boating and swimming
 - create an aesthetically unappealing siltation basin, which could contribute to downstream erosion/siltation conditions.
 - effect animal populations dependent directly or indirectly on an aquatic environment
 - possibly reduce property values for adjacent homes.

The potential for flood and erosion problems will best be determined by a unit hydrographic study of the entire watershed area. Such an investigation would also determine the design of an auxiliary spillway.

B. Dam Repair Without Site Improvement

Such action would:

- allow the present eutrophic condition of the Pond to continue and probably be enhanced by man's activity; resulting in a more rapid succession process
- provide no measurable improvement of the environment to the community after a capital expenditure
- neglect utilization of a natural resource
- result in some flood control by reinforcing integrity of the dam construction

C. Dam Repair and Site Improvement

Corrections to the existing structure would:

- provide protection of downstream areas from siltation and possible flood damage
- maintain aesthetic value of area
- maintain economic value of adjacent property
- enhance the aquatic and terrestrial environment
- provide the structure with ample flood control capabilities.

VII Recommendations:

The following list of recommendations have been assembled to provide viable avenues of action; which, if implemented, could improve the ambient environment of Cook's Pond and associated watershed.

- preparation of unit hydrographic study of Pumpkin Ground Brook Watershed. This being necessary for proper flood control and spillway design
- dredging of Pond to create adequate depth for diversity of the physical and biological environs
- a periodic inspection of all subsurface sewage disposal systems serving the surrounding residences--such action will reduce eutrophication of the Pond and curtail the possible spread of communicable disease
- restrict or control use of pesticides and herbicides by residents--this will reduce the possibility of fish

- kills, surface water and ground water contamination
- removal of brush from the Pond's edge, in addition to the removal of accumulated organic debris from the shallow areas of the impoundment. Such action will provide a means of mosquito control and reduce the biological oxygen demand of the Pond.
 - a continuous maintenance program to keep the Pond relatively free from debris. The program can be accomplished by local residents.
 - proper landscaping of the land contiguous to the Pond so as not to disturb natural flora progression. Such action will effectively contribute to a reduction of surface wash, erosion and flora encroachment of the Pond
 - restrict or control use of artificial fertilizers to prevent increased eutrophication of the Pond
 - an in depth biological and physical investigation of the Pond to further evaluate revitalization activities and their effects on the ambient fauna and flora. Such a study would also be beneficial in assessing surface water qualities. The Fish and Wildlife Section of the Department of Environmental Protection could assist in the evaluation of Cook's Pond with regard to wildlife needs and possible fish-stocking programs.

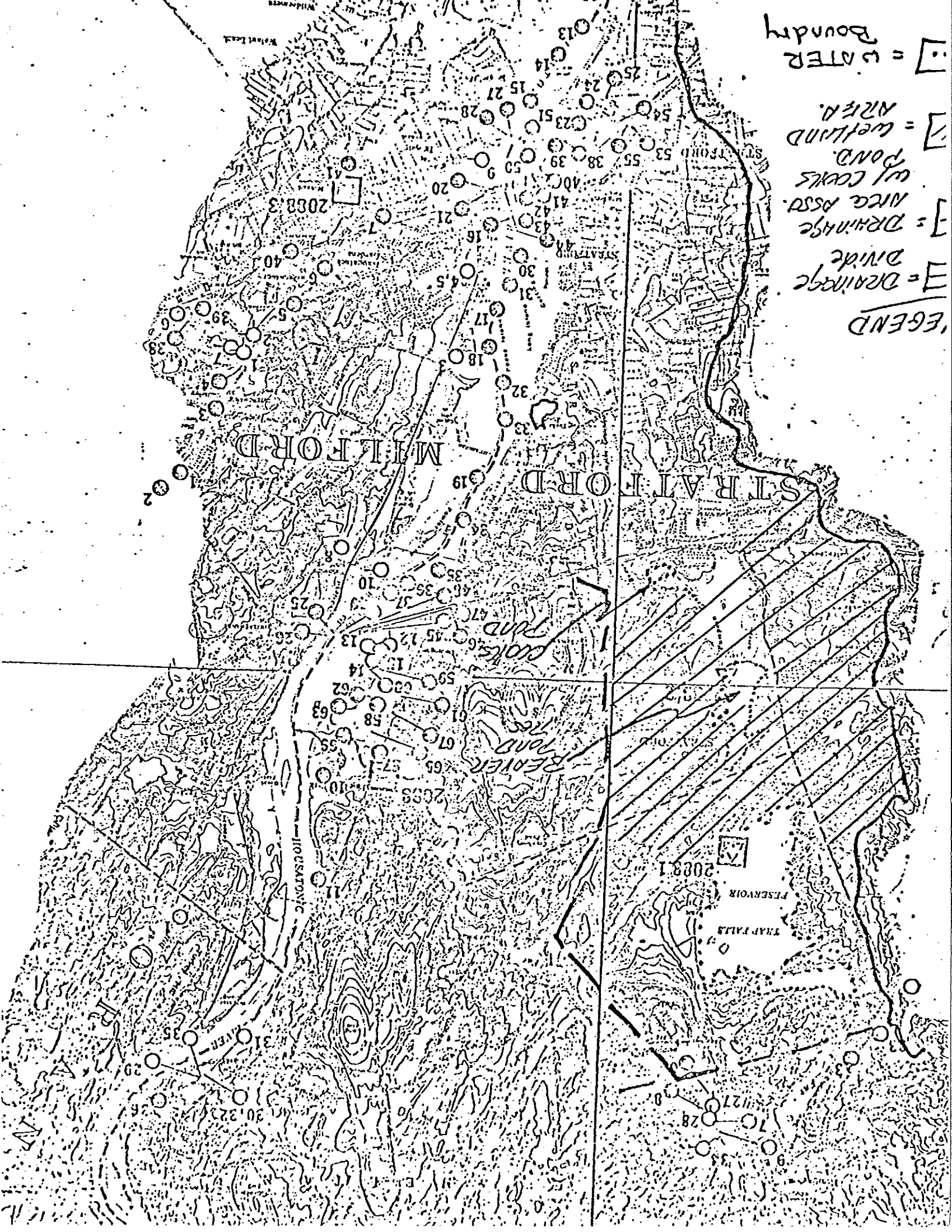
Acknowledgments

The Conservation Commission of Stratford is indebted to the

students of the AP Biology Class of Bunnell High School and their instructor, Mr. Herbert Wolfson, for making their limnological investigation of Cook's Pond available for the preparation of this report. The Commission also wishes to recognize Wes Cronk, Town Engineer, for his efforts on the Commission's behalf. Additional thanks go to the U. S. Geological Service and to Victor F. Galgowski, Superintendent of Dam Maintenance for the State of Connecticut, Department of Environmental Protection.

Bibliography:

- Cronk, Wesley M.--Cook's Pond Spillway (unpublished), prepared by Town Engineer, 1974--personal communications
- Grossman, I. G., et. al., Hydrogeologic Data for the Lower Housatonic River Basin, Conn. U. S. Geological Survey, Water Res. Bull. Nov. 20, 1970
- Wolfson, Herbert, et. al., A Limnological Study of Cook's Pond prepared by AP Biology students of Bunnell High School, 1971



□ = WATER
 □ = WETLAND
 □ = POND
 □ = AREA
 □ = DRAINAGE
 □ = DRAINAGE
 □ = DIVIDE
 LEGEND

MILFORD

STRATFORD

BEVER POND

COCKS POND

THAP FALLS

RESERVOIR

20881

HOUSATONIC

N

December 2, 1974

Mr. Lewis Knapp
Chairman
Conservation Committee (872 South Ave.)
Stratford, CT 06497

Dear Mr. Knapp:

Thank you for forwarding preliminary copy of Environmental Assessment of Cook's Pond.

We have reviewed it and find it to be very satisfactory.

I would appreciate receiving two copies of final edition and suggest a copy be sent to Mrs. Herbert Johnson, 272 Circle Drive, who is chairman of Circle Drive Area Improvement Group.

Yours truly,



W.M. Cronk
Town Engineer

WMC:fp

6/8/77

Cook's Pond Spillway

Being drained - Dewhirst and DEP problem.

Not Town's

Per C.J.B. 6/8/77

RECEIVED

FEB 10 1978

ENGINEERING DEPT.

February 10, 1978

Victor F. Galgowski
Supt. of Dam Maintenance
Water Resources Unit
Department of Environmental Protection
State Office Building
Hartford, Connecticut 06115

Dear Mr. Galgowski:

As you may be aware, Cooks Pond in Stratford is surrounded by several property owners and the dam itself is owned by Mr. Dewhirst. The possibility that the dam will be removed rather than repaired is of great concern to the property owners involved.

I would like to arrange a meeting with you or your representative and a representative of the State Department of Environmental Protection (Wetlands) together with the Town Manager, Town Engineer, Town Attorney and myself for the purpose of discussing the various ramifications of the dam problem.

Please contact me as soon as possible.

Very truly yours,

D. R. TRUEBLOOD, P.E.
Director of Public Works

DRT/sp

cc: Town Manager
Town Engineer

C
O
P
Y

Officials see little recourse —

7/8

Pond complaint renewed

By ANNA MARIA VIRZI

Complaints about the broken dam at Cook's Pond in Stratford have been renewed again — this time by a Stratford homeowner who is calling the area a health hazard, especially when the pond dries up.

Arthur Castellucci, of 160 Circle Drive, claims that the pond, which dries up after a stretch of hot, sunny days because of the broken dam, creates a breeding ground for mosquitoes, gives off stench and has attracted rats to the neighborhood.

Town health administrator William Watson said Monday that his department is investigating the complaints and a report is expected to be given to Town Manager Michael Brown in about a week.

Because the pond is privately owned by Joseph Dewhirst of Bridgeport, and the adjacent property is owned by residents of the area, there is little the town can do to correct the situation, Brown said.

However, Brown said that the town will request that Dewhirst take some corrective action, and once the Health Department's report is compiled, the town may seek assistance from the state.

Brown indicated that the situation at the pond "does not appear to be a safety problem as much as an aesthetic problem."

The Town conservation administrator William McCann reiterated Brown's remarks, noting that mosquitoes breed better in wet areas rather than mud flats and that a dry area is not more apt to attract rodents than a wet area.

Two years ago, a safety problem focusing on the dam existed when officials feared that the dam wall

would break during a heavy rain storm and would cause flooding downstream along the Pumpkin Ground Brook which empties from the pond.

During that time, the state Department of Environmental Protection requested that Dewhirst take action to correct the situation, either by planting grass in the area or by fixing the dam.

Meanwhile, the side wall of the dam eroded eliminating the potential for the dam to collapse as the water from each rain storm is not held back in the pond and goes downstream.

In discussing the complaint of the homeowners along the pond, Brown said that the residents had been eligible for a low interest state loan to fix the pond or to reconstruct the dam at an estimated cost of \$50,000, but they rejected the idea.

Brown said that if 50 people spent a thousand dollars each for the repairs, their property value would increase in the long run.

Castellucci differs from Brown's opinion. "They've got to be out of their minds," he said, in suggesting that the 35 homeowners spend that amount of money.

SENATOR SAYS NO

ATLANTA (AP) — Sen. Herman Talmadge has declined to release a summary of his personal income tax returns, despite a challenge to do so by one of his opponents. Talmadge's campaign director, Gordon Roberts, said Monday the senator's income tax returns are not a campaign issue. Roberts also said Talmadge's financial records had been "gone through with a fine-tooth comb by federal authorities."

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